August 1970

"BING"

A BOOK FULL OF INTEREST
A PAGE FULL OF TALENT.

"BING"

THE MASTER AND HIS PUPILS

A "FRANK MURPHY" PROMOTION.

THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE
founded 1950

Hon President; BING CROSBY @ Hon Vice-Pres: LARRY CROSBY

Secretary;
Frank Murphy, 23 Lovaine Place, North Shields, Northumberland, England

REPRESENTATIVES

Australia
Keith Hyde, 21 Carbeena Parade, West Heidelburg 3081, Victoria
Tom Northrope, 90 Lloyd Str, West Heidelburg 3081, Victoria

USA
Dot Hardiman, 290 Rincorn Ave, Apt 11, Campbell, California 95008

British Isles
Johnny Jones, 15 Victoria Gdns, Ballyhalbert, Co Down, N Ireland
Michael Crampton I Langbar Square, Whinmoor, Leeds 14
Reg Bristo, 7 Greenmeadow Close, St Dial's, Cwmbran, Mon.
Alf Farrow, 44 Milne Rd, Bilton Grange, Hull, Yorks.

Eire
George O' Reilly, 143 Shantalla Rd, Whitehall, Dublin.

Canada
Jean P Freneault, 1544 Iena, Ville de Laval, Chomedy, P Queboc.

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BRITISH ISLES, COMMONWEALTH and EUROPE 21/-

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA $3.00

other countries - British Isles equivalent.

an X here ..X.... signifies that your renewal is now due.

Please forward your renewal direct to Frank Murphy making your remmittance payable to THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE.

THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE
presents
"BING"
Issue ---------- Aug;
No I9 ---------- I970

BING

highlights of this issue

4 An Open Letter From Canada .....Jean Paul Frorault..
5 Bing's Radio Discography .....Larry F. Kiner.....
6 The International Dean Martin Club .....
7 The Road to Hollywood .....
I0 Auction/Mart .....
I4 Members letters .....
I5 James Dineen writes .....
I6 From the Editor .....
I9 The Reg Bristo Columns .....
42 Bing Topics From Hull .....Alf Farrow.....
43 In the money stakes the jokes on Bing .....
44 Bing writes to Leslie Gaylor .....
45 The Peter Wilson Column .....
46 A Red Letter day at Northern H.Q. .....
47 Reg the life-saver .....

PHOTO PAGES Cover..8..I2..I8..23..4I..48.:

special items of interest

Page 7/8 CLUB MEETING AT LEEDS - SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 27th (3pm)
" I5 the ICC Mini-Discography
" 44 The "GOLDILOCKS ALBUM - how to obtain a copy

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WHEN YOU'VE READ THIS PIECE, PLEASE DON'T FORGET ABOUT IT - COME BACK TO IT AFTER YOU'VE READ THE REST OF THE MAGAZINE.

I950....THE BRITISH BING CLUB....re-named shortly afterwards.. THE BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY...in I966 re-named THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE.....I97I Febuary edition brings the I.C.C to in 2Ist Anniversary - 2I years of service to the Peerless Bing. Watch for special coverage and news-stories of these 2I eventful years - happy events recalled by previous officers - Your secretary would be grateful for articles, news etc for inclusion in the special souvenir issue of Feb I97I, all past officers and leading members are cordially invited to submit material for this issue. Stencils will be supplied to those who would like to prepare their own - Please oblige.....many thanks - Frank.

JEAN PAUL FRERAULT writes an OPEN LETTER from CANADA

Dear Frank,

This is with regrets that I hear you are leaving the club as President and as active member. I feel as a Representative of your club in Canada I wish you a good time with your new type of work and I really understand the situation as a family man because I myself am a father of four children and also a grandfather of five grandchildrens. This is taken lots of my time also.

Sorry to see you are leaving so sudden like that as we have deal quite a lot in the past together and I hope that someday you will change your mind and come back with us as I hope to be that include everybody.

We have never got to meet each other, only by correspondence but I feel you are one of my best friends. Again I'm sorry to see you are leaving hope to hear from you again.

I am quite sure that your successor in Mr Reg. Bristo is the man for the big job as your replacement. I hope that it will be the same with Reg as it was with you.

BING TO TAPE TV SHOW IN ENGLAND?

Not much Canadian news lately about Bing's activities except that he has signed with NBC to do another Special which he plans to tape in England. J.P.F.

OOOOOOOO

My warmest thanks to Jean for his kind comments and also to all members who have written in similar vein - I'm very concious of the wonderful feeling of team spirit that has always been so obvious to all who've been a part of this Crosby club of ours and it was for this very reason that I decided to opt out in easy stages, mindful of the tasks that lay ahead, and mindful I might add of the burdon to be placed upon my successor - In Reg Bristo, the many endorsements that have come from so many different sources, will be fully justified and I feel the ICC and it's associate promotion the 1930's club will go on to even bigger attributes through the forthcoming years.

For myself I'd like to re-assure Jean and so many other friends of long-standing, that this is'nt the end of the 'road' at all - after a period of re-adjustment, I'm very hopeful I can begin to re-embark on a much longed for tape sponding session with so many friends I've had ro neglect over the years - I'm thinking especially of JOHNNY JONES in N. Ireland, DON DENNEY in Spokane, Washington, USA, of TOMMY NORTHROPE and KEITH HYDE 'down under' in Australia, I'm thinking too of a host of friends to whom I can get cracking on some real letter writing marathons - people like JOE SINNOTT in the States and IAN EVERETT down in SOUTH AUSTRALIA who wrote me in June of this year saying "...I do hope you will reply - you seem such an interesting guy that I'd like to hear from you regularly" .... to Ian and all my friends in the Crosby collecting world, I'm looking forward to 1971 ETC - a fella is only as interesting as his letter writing makes him, I want to get out among the big-timers in this line - we have much enjoyment to share together.

A BING RECORD A DAY WILL KEEP RADIO ONE AT BAY

BING'S RADIO SHOWS COVERED BY DISCOGRAPHS

The legion of collectors of Crosbyana/discography, will be very interested in the news from AMERICA that plans are now well ahead for the publication in August of this year of a set of RADIO DIRECTORIES of the BING CROSBY - PHILCO RADIO TIME..CHESTERFIELD and GENERAL ELECTRIC series.

Each Directory lists program date, number, names of regulars in cast, guest stars, titles of all songs performed and skits.

Each directory costs $3.50 post paid, or $10.00 for all three - n.b. U.K. members, USA dollars work out at approx 8/2 at present rates here.

ADDRESS YOUR ORDERS TOO:

Larry F. Kiner
7554 132nd Avenue N.E.
Kirkland,
WASHINGTON 98033
U.S.A.

.....

BING IS BACK ------- YES TONIGHT AT 10, THE ONE AND ONLY BING CROSBY COMES BACK TO THE AIR - FOR PHILCO.....

.....radio's greatest singing personality now teamed up with the worlds largest radio manufacturer. Tune in to the opening show tonight when Bing has his friend and favorite heckler, Bob Hope as his guest.

WEDNESDAY AT 10 is "Philco Radio Time" starring BING CROSBY.

.....

So reads one of the adverts from the period of the broadcasts - Larry will be including actual off-set duplicates of these original illustrations and writes as follows;-

".....in addition to the above three series I'm working on his others and coming along pretty good...examples. There were 27 shows for CHESTERFIELD in 1933 and I have information on 17..am missing on 10... On the CREMO 1931-2 shows, there were 124 and I have data on 92 and am missing data on 32...I expect to be ready with those later on this year and of course am working on the KRAFT MUSIC HALL, WOODBURY, et al ..."

The print on these much sought after discos will be strictly limited - members are urged not to dolay in airmailing their orders direct to LARRY KINER .. Members who feel unable to arrange the money transfer should write now to - FRANK MURPHY for further assistance re this transaction, enclosing a S.A.E. .....but hurry...

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Still in the States it gives us real pleasure to welcome to the I.C.C. PHILIP YORK of DALLAS, TEXAS who joined the club in June -

THE INTERNATIONAL DEAN MARTIN CLUB
President. Bernard H. Thorpe
253 Melford Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey, England.

During the past few months, thanks to an initial opening by our enthusiastic Leeds member KENNETH CROSSLAND, we've been having some very nice letter exchanges with Bernard, who sounds a real nice guy - Personally, your Sec has always been a great admirer of Deano Martini (as Bing affectionately refers to him as in his Decca biog set) and these exchanges have been very pleasant indeed.

The DEAN club are also desperately searching for new STEREO copies of the Reprise albums ROBIN AND THE SEVEN HOODS and also TWELVE SONGS OF CHRISTMAS. if you can help, please write to the above address;

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A BIOGRAPHY OF BING CROSBY
via Women Star Service

RICHARD MUIRHEAD writes from 172 Colinton Mains Drive
Edinburgh 13
Scotland

"......I read you wanted more material for the magazine and remembered that a few months ago I receieved from the WOMEN STAR SERVICE (a service offered by the Woman magazine, where one can obtain biographies and information on stars and films free, so long as a s.a.e. is sent with query) a biography of Bing.

I found it a very excellent concise history of Bing and his films and I thought it would be of interest to other readers. I wrote to the Star Service asking whether they would grant permission for the biography to be printed in the magazine if an acknowledgment was put in with same.

I receieved a reply today from the manager of Star Service saying that he was delighted that I thought the biography was good enough to be printed in the magazine. The manager sent me two extra copies of the biography and I enclose one for re-printing." ......

The WOMAN STAR BIOGRAPHY

The biog is excellent in many ways and for the benefit of newer members it is being included in this issue via JOHN BASSETT'S section - it does however contain the usual number of errors which I'm afraid we've become accustomed too - the most notable being the references to Bing's films for MACK SENNETT at PARAMOUNT (for the benefit of newer members it should be noted that Bing's long and highly successful sojourn with PARAMOUNT was negotiated after the Sennett period - I thought a serious omission was the failure to credit Bing's unique total disc sales figure, his academy award for GOING WAY WAY and nomination for THE COUNTRY GIRL. I also felt they could have selected a better TV show than the ill-fated and I might add EVEN disastrous LITTLE BIT OF IRISH - though Bing sounds good he looked 90 years old in this badly filmed show and I for one would'nt have included it AGAINST other attributes in a biography.
the
Still for those who don't know, it does provide a fascinating picture of Bing and if WOMAN STAR (who will receieve a copy of this issue of BING via Richard) will add the above mentioned items, it will achieve a further measure of benefit for future requesters

QUESTION ... and ... ANSWER

THE ROAD TO HOLLYWOOD?

"I have recently come into possession of 8 still photos which were originally used for cinema front-of-house display. The film concerned is THE ROAD TO HOLLYWOOD and appears to have been made in the very early Thirties. The film was distributed by NEW REALM PICTURES. There is no mention of this film in my various reference books and I suspect that the stills are from one of the short comedies which Bing made for MACK SENNETT in the early Thirties. I would be most grateful for any information you may have on this film" - KIERON O' TOOLE, I30 Oxton Rd, Birkenhead, Cheshire, England.

answer

THE ROAD TO HOLLYWOOD released in I946 by ASTOR films contained four of the early shorts Bing made for MACK SENNETT in I93I, They were I SURRENDER DEAR/ JUST ONE MORE CHANCE/BILLBOARD GIRL/ and DREAM HOUSE. The original release played for 57 minutes and since it's issue has always been considered by Crosbyites to be a classic of the early Crosbyana period, along with the EALGE-LION similar production of I949 DOWN MEMORY LANE.

It's interesting to quote from FILMS IN REVIEW Vol XIX-July I968;-

> ....."he had become so popular on air and screen that in I946 Astor Pictures put together the first four shorts he had made for Sennett I5 years before. The called it THE ROAD TO HOLLYWOOD and actually made money with it" .....

Though both films keeping on poppin in and out of the I6mil catalogues, they can usually be located if you try hard enough even today - Up North we often hired them for local meetings and they always provided the highlight of the event. Precious little of Bing's illustrious Mack Sennett crooning found it's way on to records and happy we are to be able to listen and indeed to see as well the maestro in those magnificent gems - AUF WEIDESEHN et al - they must rank as the most recorded of all Crosby soundtracks.

RADIO TIME...the old Crosby classic SWINGING ON A STAR (I944) popped up on the Ed Stewart BBC I radio show (8.32am-9.55am) on Saturday July II.I970

RECORD TIME..the Realm album CROSBY CLASSICS continues to occupy prominent display at many of the U.K.'s leading WOOLWORTH's departmental stores - Charlie Tupper (Surrey-England) was saying it frequently makes the best selling lists too - great tribute to these I932-34 CROSBY CLASSICS

Many leading members and associates of the INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE will gather at the home of leading British collector MICHAEL CRAMPTON at Leeds, England on Sunday September 27th - heading the guest list will be Michael himself, REG BRISTO-(Wales) FRANK MURPHY (Northumberland) with many other luminaries of the I.C.C. promising to make the trip too - highlight of the event will be the usual top class request tape always prepared so well by our copart of so many years MICK DRURY and also taped greetings from all parts of the world, from wherever the ICC is represented. Special interest is also attached to the rare early Thirties Radio Show which it is planned to include in the music section ... IF YOU CAN MAKE IT ... DON'T MISS IT ...

THE GREAT STARS - THE GOLDEN YEARS OF SHOW BUSINESS.

Here are the stars the public has acclaimed as the greatest Personalities who could effortlessly pack the Palladium or the Albert Hall, draw crowds in their thousands - Artists who possess that magic quality which lifts them to the Super-Star category..

So reads the intro to the GREAT STARS and exclusive READERS DIGEST/RCA record collection of 7 LP 33⅓ records (12") - 87 original performances by over 80 great stars - playing time over 4 hours.

The Bing tracks are Record 2 - DREAM A LITTLE DREAM OF ME (Bob Scobey's Band)
Record 7 - SOME SUNNY DAY "

Bing is also featured on the free gift album - write for full details of the set to READERS DIGEST 7-10 Old Bailey, London EC99 1AA

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JUDY GARLAND MATERIAL URGENTLY REQUIRED BY
Frederick H Mc Fadden
R. D. 4 Westernville Road
Rome, New York 13440
U.S.A.

"I'm searching for RADIO APPEARANCES and other items of all types on JUDY GARLAND - I have about 20 hours of Bing on Radio mostly with Judy and am interested in exchanging material - a few samples of what I have;-

COMMAND PERFORMANCE 1944 Bing Crosby - Kay Kyser (30 mins)

PHILCO HALL OF FAME 1944 (60 mins) Bing Crosby

JEROME KERN MEMORIAL 1945 (60mins) Bing Crosby all star show

20th ANNIVERSARY SALUTE TO BING CROSBY 1951 (30mins)

PAUL WHITEMAN PRESENTS 1943 RENION OF HIS RHYTHM BOYS (30mins)

SCREEN GUILD - MR JINKS GOES TO SEA - Bing, Andy Devine. 1939 (30mins)

I also have some 27X40 Movie Posters of Bing, a few Decca albums and y magazine clippings - I'll look forward to hearing from any I.C.C. fans who'd like to exchange with me.

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MICHAEL CRAMPTON PRESENTS
THE INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE'S 5th ANNUAL MEETING

at LEEDS - SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 27th 1970 in honour of Frank Murphy

The address for Crosbyphiles is 1 Lanbar Square, Whinmoor, Leeds 14

The programme commences ar 3pm *
Introductions *
Presentation to Frank Murphy *
Greetings from distant friends *
Bing 1935 - A Radio Show *
First half Tape Requests - Mich Drury *
Tea -- And -- Talk *
Second half requests - Mick Drury *
Radio Leeds - half hour show *
In Interview with Bing Crosby. *
****
Members are requested to advise Michael of their intention to attend by sending a postal order for 2/6 to assist towards the catering costs.

Gary Crosby, fils de Bing, va remplacer son père à la station C. B. S. pendant les vacances. Son père veut pourtant qu'il termine ses études avant de pousser plus avant.

NAME'S THE SAME. Rare photo of Bob with Bing and Everett Crosby, taken in '36 after Bob had organized his band, the *Wildcats*, and during the time when Bob hardly admitted he was a Crosby.

Swim champs — including Mary Frances — aren't necessarily chic.

The romance of Kathy Grant and Bing Crosby almost reached the altar stage a couple of years ago, then they split. But love found a way and now they are married.

All records in a minimum of EXCELLENT Cond' unless otherwise stated. The majority are MINT.

The following Crosby records are offered for auction. Send your bids direct to Frank Murphy by the closing date of OCTOBER Ist using only the number in the left hand column* - 78's limited to U.K. members only - boxes to be supplied by winning U.K. members - packing will be supplied to winning overseas 'micro' winners. Winners notified.

78's

* 1 Cap CL14663 Now you has Jazz
2 CL14665 True Love/Well did you Evah
3 Col DB2056 Thanks/Temptation-VG
4 Bruns(05035) The merry go run around(single sided demonstration sample)
5 (05033) To see you is to love you " " "
6 105 (12") Gems from George White Scandals
7 0134 (12") Pennies from Heaven selection
8 01166 Out of Nowhere/If you should ever need me
9 01596 Black Moonlight/Thanks-VG
10 01925 Let me call you Sweetheart/The very thought of you-G
11 02412 Sweet Leilani/The one Rose
12 02808 To you sweetheart/I surrender dear
13 02054 Silent Hight(D1a261)/Adeste Fidelis(D1a256)
14 02054X Silent Night(L3026)/Adeste Fidelis(L3025)
15 02973 Too Romantic/The moon and the willow Tree
16 02974 Sweet potato Piper/18th and 19th on Chestnut Street
17 02653 Mr Gallagher and Mr Sheen/Small Fry
18 02753 The lonesome Road/Little Sir Echo
19 02978 The singing Hills/Devil may Care-VG
20 02761 Sweethearts/Ah sweet mystery of Life
21 02317 One two button your shoe"So do I
22 02806 Just one more chance/My melancholy Baby
23 02787 That sly old Gentleman/Hang your heart on a hickory Limb
24 02849 Gipsy love Song/I'm falling in love with someone
25 02443 Sweet Leilani/In a little Hula Heaven
26 02315 Where the blue of the night/Dancing in the dark
27 02805 Stardust/Icried for you
28 02900 If I had my Way/Wrap your troubles in dreams
29 02484 The folks who live on the hill/Can I forget you
30 02316 Pennies from Heaven/Let's call a heart a heart
31 03744 My baby said yes/Your socks don't match
32 03775 A Gal in Calico/Oh but I do
33 03753 McNamara's band/Dear old Donegal
34 03313 Deep in the heart of Texas/Blues in the night
35 03635 The bells of St' Mary's/I'll take you home again Kathleen
36 03384 White Christmas/Let's start the New Year right
37 03782 Danny Boy/When Irish eyes are smiling
38 03889 Laroo Laroo lilli Bolero/Dance Ballerina Dance
39 03882 Galway Bay/My girls an Irish Girl
40 03151 Ballad for Americans Pt one @ two
41 03152 " " Pt three @ four
42 03802 Smile right back at the Sun/My heart is a hobo
43 03569 Ac-cent-tchu-ate the Positive/There's a fella in Poughkeepsie
44 03312 Miss you/Mandy is two
45 03269 Birth of the blues/The waiter the porter the upstairs maid
46 Oh what a beautiful morning/People will say we're in love 03708
47 03031 I hav'nt time to be a millionaire/April played the fiddle
48 03087 Only forever/When the moon comes over Madison Square
49 03813 South America take it away/Feudin' and fightin'
50 03092 Rhythm on the River/That's for me
51 03636 Aren't you glad you're you/In the land of beginning again
52 03381 Happy Holiday/Be careful it's my heart
53 03534 GOing my Way/Swinging on a Star
54 03589 A friend of yours/Just a prayer away
55 03700 Blue Skies/I've got my captain working for me now

56	03758	September Song/I can't believe that you're in love with me
57	03019	Beautiful Dreamer/You are my heart's delight
58	03411	Ain't got a dime to my name/Constantly
59	03650	On the Atcheson, Topeka and Sante Fe/I'd rather be me
60	03672	You keep coming back like a song/All by myself
61	03604	Welcome to my dreams/It's anybody's Spring
62	03010	Tumbling tumbleweeds/If I knew then
63	03801	Country style/As long as I'm dreaming
64	03779	Temptation/Among my souvenirs
65	03939	The sweetest story ever told/Mighty lak' a rose
66	03603	My Mothers waltz/Would you
67	03902	Kentucky Babe/The Whiffenpoof Song
68	03410	Moonlight becomes you/The Road to Morocco
69	03982	At the flying W/A hundred and sixty Acres
70	03032	Meet the Sun Halfway/The pessimistic Character
71	03932	Friendly Mountains/The kiss in your eyes
72	03385	Lazy/I'll capture your heart
73	03837	Apalachicola F.L.A./You don't have to know the language
74	03597	You've got me where you want me/Ya ta ta, Yah ta ta
75	03494	Pistol packin' Mama/Vict'ry Polka
76	03485	Sunday Monday or always/If you please
77	03822	Tallahassee/Go Qest young Man
78	03300	You are my sunshine/Day dreaming
79	03647	Strange music/I love You
80	03618	It's been a long long time/Whose dream are you
81	03565	Don't fence me in/The three Caballeros
82	03396	Be honest with me/It must be true
83	03184	It's always you/You lucky people you
c84	03171	Mister Meadowlark/San Antonio Rose
85	03547	The day after forever/It could happen to you
86	03080	Dinah/Shoe shine Boy
87	03185	You're dangerous/Birds of a feather
88	03783	The Spaniard that blighted my life/Alexander's Ragtime band
89	03533	Amor amor/I'll be seeing you
90	03539	Is you is or is you ain't my baby/Long aog and far away
91	03350	The lamplighters serenade/On behalf of the visiting Firemon
92	03651	Did your mother come from Ireland/Where the river Shannon F'
93	03587	You belong to my heart/Baia
94	03382	Easter Parade/Abraham
95	03073	Trade winds/Can't get Indiana off my Mind
96	03554	Too-ra-loo-ra-loo-ral/Let me love you tonight
97	03624	Symphony/I can't begin to tell you
98	04781	Gone fishin'/Moonlight Bay
99	04482	Sunshine Cake/The horse told me
100	04606	It's a marshmallow world/All my love
101	04613	Life is so Peculiar/High on the List
102	A04509	Ichabod parts 2 @ 3
103	04454	Have I told you lately that I love you/Quicksilver
104	04981	Zing a little Zong
105	04346	Christmas Carols parts I @ 2
106	04622	And you'll be home/Accidents will happen
107	04581	Rudolph the red nosed Reindeer/The teddy bears picnic
108	04339	Top O' the Morning/You're in love with someone
109	04442	Chattanoogie shoe shine boy/Sorry
110	04114	Hasta Manana/Siboney
111	04553	Sam's song/So tall a tree
112	04035	Far away places/Tarra ta lara ta lar
113	04900	At last at last/The Isle of Innisfree
114	04760	In the cool cool cool of the evening/Misto Christofo Columbo
115	04483	Sure Thing/Someplace on anywhere Road
116	04420	Dear hearts and gentle People/Mule train
117	04761	Bonne Nuit/Your own little house
118	05410	Stranger in Paradise/Who gave you the Roses

119 05173 Getting to know You/Iwhistle a happy Tune
120 05016 Personality/Experience
121 05674 Around the World
122 05062 Silver Moon/Betsy
123 05203 The Magic Window/Cela M'est Egal
124 05035 The Road to Bali/The merry go run around

125 Presto 10" (dubbing) Paul Whiteman's Rhythm Boys
Louise & So the Bluebirds and the Blackbirds

126 12" album (dubbings) of Cabin in the Cotton/My Woman/ My Love/I would if I could/Shadows of love/Little Dutch Mill/ Just one word of Consolation/Dear old girl/It's the dreamer in me/Sailboat of Dreams/When the Sun goes down/The Yodel Blues/ The big movie show in the Sky/Friendly Islands/With summer coming on/Shadows on the window.

127 10" album of film soundtrack songs - In the cool cool cool of the evening/We're a couple of song and dance men/Swinging on a star/The road to Morocco/I promise you/Count your Blessings/ Sailor Beware/Pennies from Heaven/The waiter the porter and the Upstairs maid/Too Romantic

128 Gala GLP 352 (12" album Bing Crosby sings and narrates NEVER BE AFRAID

129 Reprise 45 0645 What do we do with the World/Step to the Rear
130 " " 20424 The secret of Christmas/The white world of Winter
131 Bruns 45 05928 Goodnight Sweetheart/Where the blue of the Night

132 " 10" album LA8714 Songs from THE COUNTRY GIRL and LITTLE BOY LOST

133 Bruns EP OE9424 I can't begin to tell You/Sweet Leilani/San Antonio Rose/ Sunday Monday or always.

134 OE9293 Thanks for the Memory/Blues in the Night"/Mona Lisa/ Memories are made of this

135 OE9353 The Road to Morocco/Put it there Pal/Hoots Mon/Chicago Style

136 OE9070 I'll be home for Christmas/Faith of our Fathers/Santa claus is coming to Town/Jingle Bells

137 Reprise EP 30018 Return to Paradise/The Hukilau Song/Frangipani Blossom Home in Hawaii

138 RCA (Aust) EP 20402 Aloha means I love You/The music of Home/It's a good Day/The New Ashmolian

139 7" EP 45rpm Bing Crosby personal message - ICC May 26 1968

140 7" EP 45rpm Cabaret/The good old Days/Strangers in the night/Sunrise Sunset/That's life

141 7"LP 33⅓rpm Bing/Dean Martin/Andy Williams TV excerpts (M/N 363/4

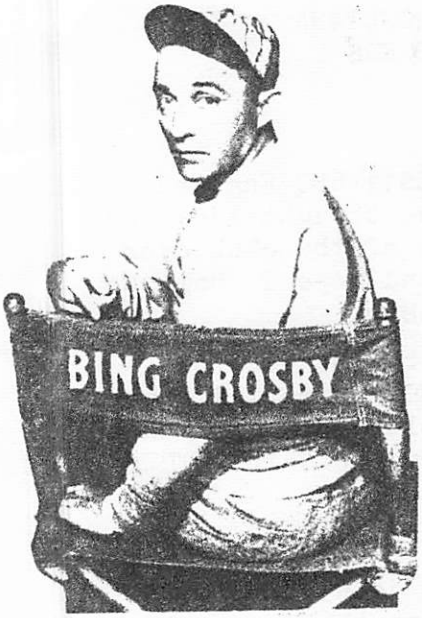
142 12" LP Bing Crosby's All-Star Philco Show - guests include Al Jolson- The Mills Brothers-Burl Ives-Louis Armstrong-Jimmy Durante.

---------- DON'T FORGET THE CLOSING DATE ----- OCTOBER 1st ----------

****
* CASSETTES OF BING *
****

A complete list of cassettes available is obtainable from MUSIC TAPES (MAIL ORDER) 36 HIGH STREET, SALISBURY, WILTSHIRE for 4/6 - only one Bing cassette is listed in the current catalogue titled BING CROSBY AND FRIENDS price 47/6 is the cassette version of the Warner Bros album JOIN BING AND SING ALONG.

...Our thanks to North Shields member Robert Jones for this information....

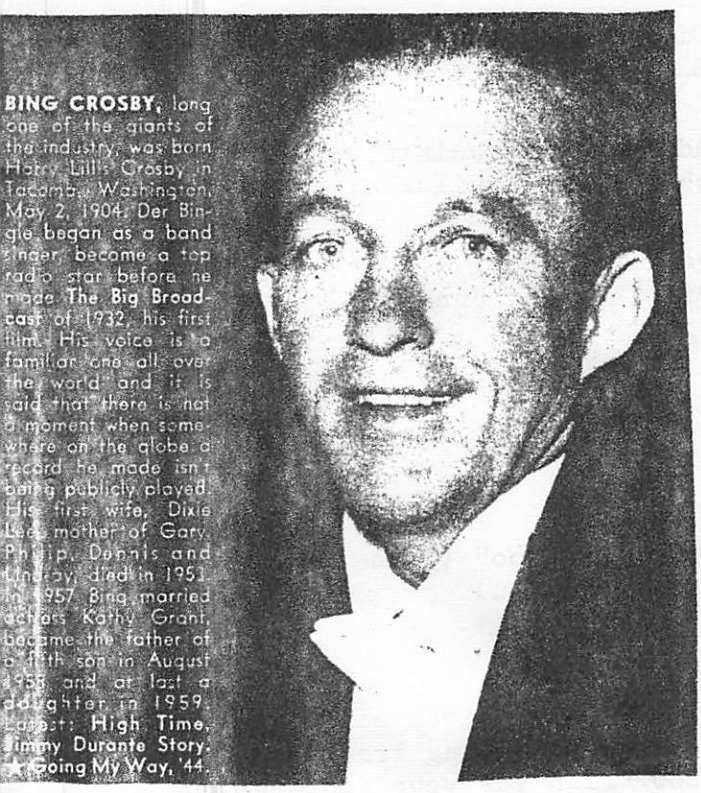


Bing Crosby, richtiger Name Harry L. Crosby, wurde am 2. Mai 1904 in Tacoma (Washington) geboren. Filme mit ihm, die wir in Deutschland sahen: „Der Weg zum Glück" (für den er 1944 den Oscar bekam), „Die Glocken von St. Marien", „Nur für dich", „Weg nach Utopia", „Weg nach Sansibar", „Weg nach Marokko", „Kleines Herz findet heim", „Lach und wein mit mir", „Weg nach Rio", „Ich küsse Ihre Hand, Madame", „Weiße Weihnacht" und jetzt „Ein Mädchen vom Lande".

It's happy days on the Paramount lot as Ivy Wilson and Derek say hello to that master of song Bing Crosby.

Alles über Mr. Music

Bing Crosby – ein amerikanisches Phänomen



BING CROSBY, long one of the giants of the industry, was born Harry Lillis Crosby in Tacoma, Washington, May 2, 1904. Der Bingle began as a band singer, became a top radio star before he made **The Big Broadcast** of 1932, his first film. His voice is a familiar one all over the world and it is said that there is not a moment when somewhere on the globe a record he made isn't being publicly played. His first wife, Dixie Lee, mother of Gary, Philip, Dennis and Lindsay, died in 1952. In 1957 Bing married actress Kathy Grant, became the father of a fifth son in August 1958 and at last a daughter in 1959. Latest: **High Time, Jimmy Durante Story, ★ Going My Way, '44.**

(guitariste et compositeur), Nicole Colette Dereal et Bing Crosby au Jardin d'Acclimatation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - A FEW CHOSEN SNIPPETS OF CROSBYANA
********** GLEANED FROM YOUR NEWSY LETTERS

KENNETH CROSSLAND writes from 31 Colwyn Rd, Leeds LS11 6LQ England
Now that I've taken my 'O' level examinations I just thought I'd drop a few lines to say how much I've enjoyed being part of the club over the past year, I've enjoyed corresponding with youand hope I shall be able to strike up a similar friendship with Reg Bristo.

Being so busy over the past 3 or 4 months I hav'nt bought much Bing, but I've just rectified this by sending for the LONGINES set. I heard Leslie Gaylor's achievement of getting a Longines played by the BBC the other week. He also had a couple of good plugs in the DAILY MIRROR for Bing recently.

"WAG" BOWERMAN writes from 5 Oakdale Rd, South Oxhey, Watford, Herts
I'm enclosing the address of a friend who'd like to join the club - The reason he found out about my interest in Bing was that recently I was mentioned in the POST OFFICE COURIER reference my interest in the maestro - I also mentioned the club when I was interviewed but unfortunately they did'nt mention this, which I thought was a pity since it would have been a good plug for the club.

editors note

many thanks "Wag" for a great spot of publicity, just goes to show that we can work and know people for years and years without them knowing anything of our hobbies etc.

MR H LIVESEY writes from 28 Railway Trc, Brierfield, Burnley, Lancs
I have received your address from Mr L Gaylor of Newport regarding joining the Bing Club. I have been a Bing fan for many years and have scores of his works. I am now trying to get BING 4 - EAST SIDE OF HEAVEN also the SINGALONG ALBUMS.

HERB BOOTMAN writes from 3714 Poe St, San Diego, California 92107, USA
I read about your two magazines in the CROSBY COLLECTOR and would certainly like to know more about your two clubs.

I am a Crosby fan of many years standing and would appreciate your rushing me all details together with details of back numbers available.

BRIAN PATTINSON writes from Dunstan Co Durham, England
Great plug for Bing on the SAM COSTA SHOW BBC Thursday June 4th via Les Gaylor - DON'T FENCE ME IN.

Same evening in the Bridge Hotel Newcastle, Bing belted out LIVIN AND LOVIN on the Juke Box - some of the remarks passed were ;-

"its good considering his age"
"Eee it's canny is'nt it"
"He's great - old Bing"
"My mother and father like Bing, I think he's great too" (Young teanager)
"Sure that's the 'Mick' from Ireland" (big Irishman)

editors note

Brian and I have met up in the "Bridge" a couple or so times since the last issue and it gave me a special pleasure to select this Bing track - a rare treat indeed these days - my thanks to you too Brian for your continueing great work on Bing's behalf

Copies of the I.C.C. MINI-DISCOGRAPHY covering Bing recordings from 1926 to 1968, all titles plus matrix number and recording dates - many photo pages and double glossy cover b' Fred Romary - don't miss this FINAL chance to purchase this great discography- write direct to Frank Murphy today. British Isles 10/- USA 1.50 other countries U.K. eequivalent

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The following back number copies of BING magazine are available direct from Frank Murphy for 4/- each (50cents.

APRIL 1966
OCTOBER 1966
JANUARY 1967
APRIL 1967
OCTOBER 1967
AUGUST 1968
MAY 1969
AUGUST 1969
NOVEMBER 1969
FEBUARY 1970
MAY 1970

JAMES DINEEN writes from 42 Melvaig Pl, Maryhill, Glasgow N.W. I was very pleased to see my name mentioned in the magazine and my whole family were pleased also. Reading about Bing's visit to Cockermouth in Cumberland in 1966 and remembering my own thrilling visit there to see him, members may be interested to learn that the song Bing sang to my wife was called I BELONG TO GLASGOW, one chorus only, but what a thrill hearing the maestro singing just two feet away from you in person. Also, apart from the 200ft of colour film I took of Bing and Kathryn I have since purchased 2-200ft films (sound) of Bing. These are edited versions of the Mack Sennett movies the maestro made in 1931, SING BING SING and WHERE THE BLUE OF THE NIGHT, they can be bought at any good photographers for £3-10-0 each - the songs being WHERE THE BLUE OF THE NIGHT..SILENT LOVE..EVERY TIME MY HEART BEATS.. BETWEEN THE DEVIL AND THE DEEP BLUE SEA..LOVABLE..IN MY HIDAWAY.. and SNUGGLED ON YOUR SHOULDER. So altogether I have 600ft of Bing in my movie collection and no matter how often I look at them I still feel like drooling - The young Bing Crosby, I could watch and listen too all night.

In my last letter I was telling you I had some unusual tales to tell you about my great interest in the maestro and though the following was'nt very funny at the time when I look back it does seem funny now - I will take you back, way back to 1938 when I was almost 12 years old. I used to take a stroll round to a small "Boy Scouts" hut, where, twice a week they held dancing for adults and during intermission time they always played records. What seemed to be the big hit with the D.J. in the hall was SWING LOW SWEET CHARIOT, sung by the maestro. Anyway at every opportunity I would go round and sit outside, wait until I had heard Bing sing and then go home. One night it was raining pretty heavy but yours truly still went and waited, not long afterwards I took a chill which later turned to pneumonia and that was me, laid up for many weeks. My mother promised me if I got better quick she would take me to see Bing's latest film DOCTOR RHYTHM. She kept her promise and we went into town and saw it - twice. My parents bought me a gramophone and I finally bought the record of Bing that nearly laid me out flat.

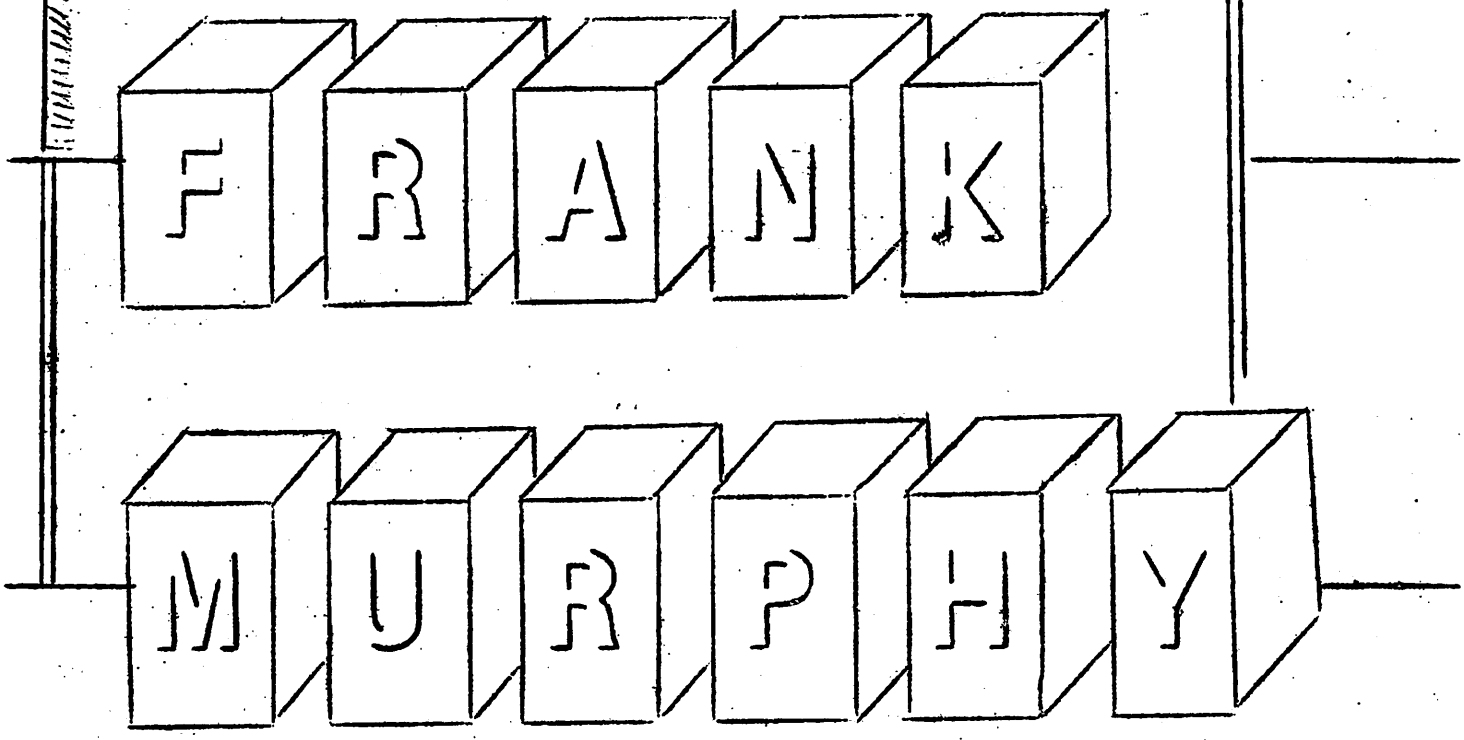
Another amusing incident happened in 1937 when my paretns gave my older brother (7 years my senior) some cash to go and see one of Glasgows greatest boxers BENNY LYNCH, my brother was quite keen to see this fight but en route we passed a cinema which was showing PENNIES FROM HEAVEN - yes, your right, BING came before BENNY and we sat through the show twice, at my request. When we arrived home, quite late, my brother took some tongue abuse from my mother for keeping me out late. he never took me anywhere after that.

Bing on the CAROL BURNETTE SHOW - he was, what is the word,.... FANTASTIC!!! Our man never, never ages, he is just the same Bing we saw back in the 50's - just great.

****

What would you give to walk down a street and see a cinema showing PENNIES FROM HEAVEN - to be sure our Scottish colleaque James Dineen would like us all go in presto and sit through the film another twice if he had the chance - keep your eyes open you never know - Bing is liable to pop up at anytime anywhere - just the other Sunday, July I2, I970 the I940 CROSBY/HOPE/LAMOUR starrer THE ROAD TO SINGAPORE was shown at the Tyneside Film Theatre-Newcastle on Tyne-England-meanwhile our thanks to James for some most interesting acedotes.

FROM THE EDITOR



GREETS ALL BING ADMIRERS

Hello Again!

Just the other week I had occasion to buy a couple of PERRY COMO albums from a patron at the cinema who was selling off some albums cheap - at two for 12/6 and in good condition too, - SING TO ME MR C (RCA SF 5III) and FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART (RCA SF 5089) represented very good value indeed. Mind you, I've never gone overboard for 'Mr C' - whilst I'd never underestimate his ability with a song, his style with a great tune like IDLE GOSSIP, to me, he was always just a little too much like Bing - but not..... Nevertheless, I've enjoyed these two albums and on hearing Perry's SAY IT IS'NT SO, found myself immediately checking through my LONGINES set for one of my favourite Bing tracks - yes, SAY IT IS'NT SO - there really is only one "MR C"

I have Mrs Crosby coming up at the cinema on August 24th in a film of days gone by - KATHRYN GRAINT shares top billing in the Columbia Pictures Super Dynamation presentation of THE 7th VOYAGE OF SINBAD - I play this film every year along with THE 3 WORLDS OF GULLIVER and as you can imagine the cinema is packed with little ones completely enthralled at the magic of these excellent 'for the young' productions - I wonder if Kathryn remembers these days of long ago - she looks great in Dynamation too.

You'll read much about Bing's current and past doing's in other columns without me duplicating here, but I must mention that thabks to some friendly prodding from Michael Crampton when he visited with us recently, I got myself a cassette tape recorder - a National mains/batt job - classy too and with an excellent tone - I've already made myself some Bing tapes up and have found the results of mike recording from the Television excellent - because I was working I missed the CAROL BURNETTE SHOW but Alma taped it for me and I was delighted with the

results - I also taped the great Bing and Bop Hope show via WAYNE AND SCHUSTER which you can also read about in this issue - I got home in time to see this and they did a great job - also caught a snatch of Bing the following week when they spotlighted JACK BENNY - in this show we had a great cameo of BING/JACK and BOB BURNS doing a song and dance act - halyum days ....

Alma and I would like to say a sincere thank you to all the members who have written and sent cards congratulating us on the birth of our son Christopher on July I9th - he's a great little fellow, but he could'nt have arrived at a more difficult time - there I was with over 70 pages for THE GOLDEN YEARS, and this issue of BING taking shape- and everything just happened - boy what a month - my schedules, hectic as always, just went all to pot - and I think ALF FARROW must have had a laugh when he rang me a couple of times about these dates as I must have sounded like the most harrased man around - a couple of local pals BERT WARNER and DON WOOLLAND kept popping in and the couple of quick visits to the local were a great stimulation I can tell you. Everything is settling down nicely now thank God. Alma and little 'Mr C' are fine and the home is once again beginning to recover under 'mother's' guiding hand - boys, we men are well and truly lost when it comes to home running p- mind you, Alma does'nt know I'm saying this and she hardly ever reads 'BING' - so she deos'nt know what she's missing - and am I glad ha ha.

JACK FEATHER has come up with some great cover for both of our promotions and I thought he'd got a great likeness of the maestro on this issues cover for "BING" - I like Deano too and hope our new friends over at the Martin club like it too - Jack I thought your cover of FAT'S WALLER a beaut'.

The JOHN BASSETT colums for this issue never materialised but John will be lending sterling hands to the production of the next issue and his eventual takeover as full editor after the Febuary I97I issue - I have great confidence in John and so have a great many members who were so impressed with his letter of a few issues back.

I'm looking forward to SEPTMEMBER 27th and the always happy event at Michael's hope a few new members will make it this time as Michael tells me it's going to be some meeting - look forward to seeing YOU there.

And speaking of Michael's prompts me to mention our dear late friend RENEE SMITH though Reg says all I'd want to say in his columns I'd just like to add my sincere condolences to George - recalling the happy times we had when they visited with us here in North Shields - it always used to impress me the way, Renee, Alma, Jack Feather's good wife and the rest of the girls used to get together for a friendly natter leaving us men to enjoy the music - Renee will be a great miss always.

No sign this issue of AUSTRALIAN NEWSLETTER - in an air letter dated August 2nd Tommy Northrope tells me they've all gone down with Asian Flu - we know what this is like Tommy so don't worry, we'll look forward to the double dose (of Bing material that is) for the next issue, meanwhile give our best to all the boys 'down under'

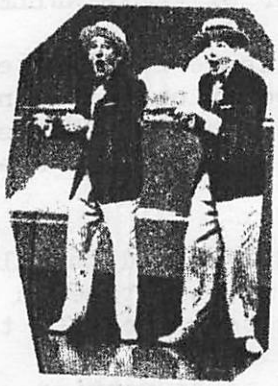
Nothing doing Bingwise on film, Bing's letter to Les does'nt give much hope and I reckon we'll just have to be content with what we're getting from the semi-retired maestro, when you reckon it up, it's still a lot for an 'old Gaffer' as Bing once described himself - but I'd love to see him in a major film again.

And that's all for this time folks as ROY CHAPPELL would say - so toodle too till next time - no steel guitar's for me or aloha a' la' Michael's ha ha - see you again in November and until then all best regards as always - incidentally if any of our overseas members want to get in on our annual Chrsstmas present for Bing and Kathryn, they can send their donations in anytime-the fund opens in the next issue but because of the time factor it's then too late for many overseas members. - more next time - regards as always, Frank.

Lunching with Bing Crosby between "Just For You" scenes. "It was a holiday doing this picture with Bing."

Highlight of the "Bridge on the River Kwai" Hollywood preem last December was the entrance of the Crosbys making their first public appearance as Mr. and Mrs. And **Kathy** was radiant!

Bing sticks his neck out in our picture from behind the shapely shoulder of Rosemary Clooney. The clown on the other side is Danny Kaye.



Bing Crosby

BING

DER GREATEST!

COME - CHAT WITH ME! REG BRISTO'S

SUPPLEMENT TO "BING" AUGUST - 1970 ++++

DEAR GENTLEFOLK OF CROSBYANA

For me, the greatest thing about the last issue of BING was the truly astonishing - and voluminous - contributions by our Cobbers Down Under! We have long respected our Australian colleagues for their devotion to the Crosby cause ... but their contributions last time were of the highest calibre, under the extremely able compilation of

T O M M Y N O R T H R O P E, who revealed himself as no mean statistician. It was great that he had assembled such names as Henry Hollow, Keith Hyde and Jim Lole, tho' I must confess that the last-named is a new one to me -- but nevertheless, very welcome indeed.

+ Tom's table - "Yearly Tally" -- showed astonishing diligence and draws a revealing picture. The accompanying notes "For Beginners By A Beginner" covered all possible ground and, incidentally, showed Tom to be far from a beginner! Tom also raised that perennial connumdrum: What happened to the 1,000 or so missing Crosby records? He's got us arguing again over here! Anyway, Tom Northrope is clearly a man after our own hearts and I for one look forward to his continuing contributions - as well as those of Henry, Keith et al. They bring Australia so much closer, it seems.

+ +

+ The item that really astounded me, however, was the bewailed, despondent, cry of

P E T E R W I L S O N, who after presenting his "Diary" unequivocally asked:

"Is this the final fade-out.?."

+ Ye Gods Peter, that's no way to talk. And in any case, your fears must surely have been eased these last few months. Apart from the TV action reported further on in these pages, Auntie BBC has again presented a version of "The Bing Crosby Story", two 45 minutes each programmes on successive Monday evenings.

+ Then came the long-awaited news that Bing is making a film especially for TV - "Dr. Cooke's Garden" if I remember rightly. I had to smile when the Daily Express printed the news. It said that the great singer Bing Crosby was going the way of many Hollywood celebrities by making a film for TV - just as if it were the first!

+ I remain convinced that one day we shall see a tremendous Crosby resurgence. I feel quite certain of that. Meanwhile, things are going along quite nicely, thank you. The name Bing Crosby is likely to remain a household one to see most of us off - aye, even the youngsters!

+++

+ It was Stanley Holloway, I believe, who, speaking of his admiration for Bing, likened his voice to "a saxophone voice". Baritone sax, of course. Now I've just read that The Dorsey Brothers "had often played for Bing, and they felt that they could achieve some relationship if they pitched their sound like his". So, according to drummer Ray McKinley, "the emphasis on the trombones was to give the band a Bing Crosby quality." Could be? Anyway, speaking of the Dorseys, who were featured not so long ago in my "Bing Crosby - Accompanied By..." series, it was Jimmy Dorsey who landed the

(Cont. over...

much sought-after job of accopanying Bing on his Kraft Music Hall programme in the early Thirties - mid-Thirties, perhaps. The vocalist of the band at that time was Bob Eberly, and a very good - and extremely popular - vocalist Bob was. As a matter of fact, in the 1939 METRONOME poll (an American paper devoted to dance bands &c. similar to our MELODY MAKER) Bob Eberly redeived a "total of 527 votes, being just 110 less than the perennial victor, Bing Crosby. Interesting side observation: Frank Sinatra received twenty-one votes."

+ A bit of an eye-opener to some of the younger Crosby fans, I imagine.

+ Jimmy Dorsey and his orchestra stayed with Bing and the Kraft Show for eighteen months. Fud Livingston was hired to do most of the arrangements for the show. They were written, of course, for Bing, which was just great for Eberly, because Crosby was his idol and "it was a tremendous kick for me to be able to sing those arrangements whenever the band played a one-nighter." So spoke Bob Eberly, who showed tremendous affection for, and loyalty to, Jimmy Dorsey. Imagine being a Band's principal vocalist and yet having to stand aside while the band accompanied, weekly, the world's No. 1 singer.

+ These fascinating snippets come from a book, THE BIG BANDS, by George T. Simon. The book is a comprehensive volume of the golden age of the big dance bands in America, and runs to almost 540 pages! There are, of course, numerous references to Bing. The book was published by Collier-Macmillan Ltd., London at 55/-, in 1967. But fear not, there is an excellent chance you can obtain it from your local library. It tells a wonderful story - and for the Crosby enthusiast, fills in numerous gaps.

For example, when we dealt with John Scott Trotter, Bing's most-often-accompanist, I had to confess that I knew little of J.S.T. until his Crosby days - remember he made about 334 records with Bing and his name is forever identified with Bing and that host of Brunswick records. From this absorbing book I learn the, to me, surprising information that John Scott Trotter was the pianist and arranger in the Hal Kemp band from the late Twenties to the time he teamed up with Bing.

+ The Hal Kemp band is remembered as one of the greatest, sweetest, and on times, swingiest band of all time. It had a style that has never been emulated and made fans all over the world. Indeed, one of them was Prince George, later King George Vl, for the band toured Britain in the very early 30's. It seems, according to this book, that J.S.T. must have been in the band at that time. If this should catch his eye, I wonder if we can prevail upon him to tell us more about that tour? Contemporaries have stated that when John Scott left "the band missed Trotter's impeccable musical taste." Alas, Hal Kemp was killed as the result of a car accident in 1940. It is reported that John Scott Trotter rushed to help out with the band but sadly, all efforts failed and the band broke up, but will be long remembered.

+ Incidentally, it is a sad fact that countless leaders and musicians were killed by means of car accidents. This was largely because bands in those days, both when they were angling for top-spot residencies in hotels and clubs, and to meet public demand <u>after</u> they had completed a successful stint at such a residency, were compelled to cover the vast distances between American towns, travelling often in the small hours when they were dog-tired after spending hours the previous night on "the stand". One thing emerges from this book: They were great times, but the one-night stands were incredibly gruelling.

+ +

"SAMMY DAVIS BELTS THE BEST OF BROADWAY" - so runs the cover of a recent album. Who says, then, that albums don't tell the truth ? Personally, I prefer to hear the Best of Broadway <u>sung</u>.

+ +

+ Later on you will read of my encounter with ROY CHAPPELL, the singer "with a touch of the Bing's". Quite a coincidence that Manchester, where Roy lives, also houses another well-known club singer, mentioned before in these columns - LARRY SHANNON, and his wife NANCY. I love getting letters from Nancy and Larry - their enthusiasm is tremendous. But being away from home a lot - they often have to catch up on two issues of BING - and then tell me all about what they liked! Makes quite a letter.

A MINOR FESTIVAL OF CROSBY FILMS

"Afraid the Bing-scene is very quiet..." So rang a score or so of letters I received in May, June and July. Quiet? Not in our 'house, with a couple of thousand Bing songs to be played! But, of course, I knew what the writers meant - the Bing-scene as regards current activity. Well things do get a bit quiet in the summer months. They went even quieter this year when that wonderful World Cup football competition came to its appointed end. What a wonderful, "sustained excitement," period that was. You don't care for football? Oh, well cricket was there ? Did anybody notice?

+ Anyway, back to Bing, for a change! All quiet indeed, then wham - down in this part of the world we had TWO Crosby films in three days! By some quirk of the aerial instead of Harlech ITV we're now getting Westward, and it was on this station that we got "The Country Girl" and "Just for You" with just one non-Bing night in between.

+ I've seen "Just for You" perhaps a round dozen times, but can always watch it again. "The Country Girl" I haven't seen nearly so often. In fact, I'm almost certain this was only the second time around.

+ I recall this film as a rather painful experience - no matter what it meant to, or for Bing. For over 30 years we had seen Bing, to quote the Maestro himself, playing himself in films - you know, plenty of good songs, a dance or two, plenty of fun. Happy-go-lucky stuff which suited yours truly down to the ground. True he had, as Father O'Malley once or twice got close to dropping this imagine. Didn't he win his Oscar in "Going My Way" - to his own intense surprise?

+ Then, either Bing or someone else, got the "acting thing" - and we saw the cheerful troubadour dropping his natural personality in such films as "Little Boy Lost" - and "The Country Girl". This was in the early Fifties, speaking without the Filmography that Fred Reynolds and Co. have almost completed. As the acting increased, the songs, to my sorrow, decreased. But, without doubt, Bing established himself as a Thespian of the highest order. But I repeat, for me it was a painful business.

+ "The Country Girl", with its crazy-mixed-up complexes between Bing and Grace Kelly, was worthy of the Sixties, come to think of it. Actually, it was a very good film indeed, with excellent performances from all three principals - Bing, Grace and William Holden. The story extremely credible. But oh the anguish of seeing our care-free maestro as a weak-willed, spineless, boozing, drop-out. And for once, Bing very, very nearly DIDN'T get the girl. It was touch and go, with powerful - real - opposition from Bill Holden who, in the process, proved that Bing was no -dropout but capably of carrying another Broadway hit - and ensured that his wife, Bing's, fell in love with him again.

+ With the foregoing proviso, I thoroughly enjoyed the film and it contained some good numbers - and incidents. One of them was the scene I never tire of seeing - Bing in the recording studio. I reckon this was fairly true to life, with Bing the complete professional recorder, even though he wasn't wearing one of his fancy hats and was standing up! This was the simulated recording of "The Search Is Through", the Arlen-Gershwin number. This really is an excellent number that tends to get overlooked by a lot of Crosby-collectors. The recording was watched by wife and son, who was "conducting" the orchestra. I imagine this could have been real-life at some time or other, especially when Bing walked off with a wave to the control-box: "That one OK Joe?" "The Land Around Us" was another number from the same team, of course, that came over very well, as well as "The Dissertation on the State of Bliss" and "It's Mine It's Yours".

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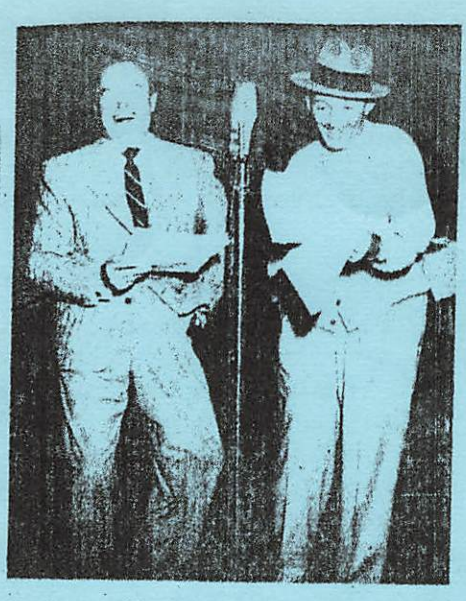
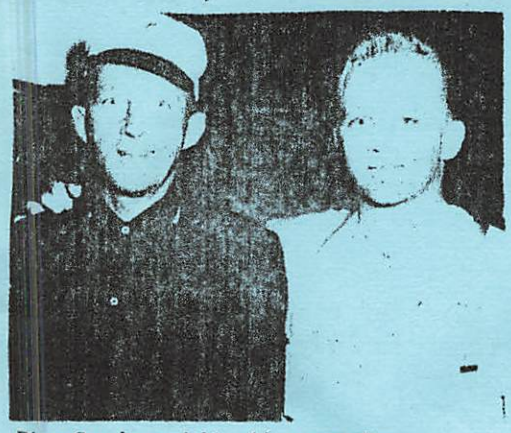
BING CROSBY

Family favourite for two generations



Gag-busters: Bing Crosby was special guest on Bob Hope's NBC air show at Fort Ord, following Crosby's Annual Pebble Beach Tournament

The familiar smile



Bing Crosby and his eldest son, Gary,

+ I'm a little ashamed to say that, after the film, I got our these records and played them for the first time in months. Its my neglect of them I'm ashamed of - not that I at last played 'em again!

+ My wife watched this film enthralled - it was a situation females love - but after about 10 minutes she remarked: "My goodness, this isn't a bit like a Crosby film, is it?" See what I mean ? Bing even stooping to the subterfuge of selecting a cough-mixture with a 22 per cent alcohol content!

+ I believe this film was shewn on London ITV a few weeks before Westward showed it.

+ Then "Just for You", two nights later. This was more the light-hearted Bing type - with his young son falling in love with Jane Wyman - and the way she looked, I didn't blame him one little bit - and Jane unwittingly given the boy the impression she felt the same when, of course, she was in love with "father". Once again though, a Crosby film came uncannily close to real life in a few scenes. I'm thinking of when Bing realised just how out-of-touch he was with his son - and his daughter, for that matter. And the efforts he made to get a rapporte with them.

+ This was the film that contained the delightful cameo of Ethel Barrymore as the Headmistress of the very exclusive girls' school whom Bing mistook for a mechanic because she showed him how to start an out-board motor! Then Bing "let the side down" by, instead of giving a baritone version of "Trees" at the aforementioned school's annual gathering, he recognised the bandleader and gave out with "The 10.10 from Tenessee." He and the bandleader had been in vaudeville years before. I could have done with a lot more of this sort of thing. Anyway, as you know, it all ended happily, and patriotically, for the boy joined the U.S. air force - and Bing followed him around the camps until he found him.

+ Jane Wyman, as I remembered at the time, was quite a revelation in this film. Both physically, and in the fact that up to then I'd no idea she could do a semi-musical film. Hitherto, she had been in some very heavy drama. But, the top song of the film, "Zing a Little Zong" showed both Jane and Bing off to tremendous advantage. In fact, I wouldn't be surprised if this wasn't the best "production" number Bing was ever involved in.

+ Back to "The Country Girl" for a minute - this was followed a couple of years later by the "classic" with Grace Kelly, "High Society" after which Grace retired from Hollywood to be the Princess of Monaco. This too, was a film in which Bing seemed in danger of "losing" the girl, who incidentally, happened to be his wife again. But none of us really thought Bing was going to lose out in this one. In any case, it all paled into insignificance after "Samantha", "Little One" - and especially, <u>especially</u>, "Now You Has Jazz". It was while watching this film in Gibraltar that I had that rare experience of hearing the cinema-audience burst into spontaneous applause when Bing finished up "Now You Has Jazz". And of course, the performance well-merited such a tribute. Still does....

+ +

+ So, the quiet was disturbed. Then Fred Reynolds laconically tells me he has "The Goldilocks LP" - from the States. Not issued here yet, though I understand its going to be - on a childrens' series label. Bing sings three numbers on the album, which is shared by the family - the rest of the album, not the songs.

+ +

+ Then came the news that Bing was a guest on the first of a new series of Carol Burnett programmes to be seen on BBC2 TV, on July 5th. This is July 4th as I write - Louis' 70th birthday by the way so if I catch the show tomorrow in London, whither I am bound in the morning, I'll comment later on.

+ Les Gaylor says you can get the Goldilocks lp by writing to: Mrs. Fay Powers, Public Relations, Evans-Black Carpets Inc., P.O. Box 47266 Dallas, Texas, 752 47, enclosing the equivalent of 2.25 dollars. On the other hand, you can wait and get it here.... so I understand! And talking of Les Gaylor, read on......next page.....

LESLIE GAYLOR'S GREATEST EVER BING-PLUGGING CAMPAIGN

MEMBERS can hardly have failed to notice that that one-man power-house of a publicity agency, LESLIE GAYLOR, our earnest and estimable friend on the Isle of Wight, has mounted in recent months what must, for him, be the greatest-ever plug-Bing campaign. Letters have been appearing in the National press almost daily, it seems, under his name. In one or two cases he has provoked the Editor into printing a picture of the Maestro. I've seen letters in the Sun, refuting their statement that Mantovani had sold most records - Bing has. Another so-called expert gave one of the rhapsodic write-ups we have become used to of recent years about a certain swashbuckling clan-leader in the course of which he said this certain singer had contributed more to the popular-singing scene than any other singer THIS CENTURY! Leslie was in very quickly asking, quite politely, if they'd ever heard of Bing Crosby.

+ Yet another appeared in the News of the World about an unissued song Bing had done - "You've Never Had It So Good". There were others. It brings to mind, very vividly, my recollection of seeing letters from Leslie in the press years and years ago - long before I became a member of the I.C.C. or any other Crosby organisation. For instance, I think it must have been 1957 or '58, I was in Gibraltar on a 3-year tour of duty - and Bing's superb record of "Gigi" percolated through to the Rock. Naturally, I snapped it up and decided it was a very fine record, especially that great number, "The Next Time It Happens" on the reverse side. I was thinking that it was really incredible that this record, all those years since Bing had burst on the scene, had those same rich, mellow tones, that incredible phrasing and diction - and damme, if I didn't read a letter in some record paper saying those very things! The writer, need you ask, was Leslie Gaylor. I made a mental note of that name and subsequently saw it many times. Since those days, I've come to be a very good friend of Les's - and am proud to be.

+ I'm certain he knows every BBC producer by name - and keeps them informed of all news about Bing. That he is well-respected as a Crosby authority is evident from the very friendly letters he receives from them. And, as you know, Bing's birthday never goes unannounced over the radio, thanks to Leslie. Easily his biggest scoop was getting the BBC to broadcast a track from the Longines set, Bing Crosby's Golden Treasury. Hitherto the Corporation would not broadcast records that were not available over shop-counters. Somehow, Les overcame this restriction with the result that "Ole Buttermilk Sky" - not previously commercially recorded by Bing - was broadcast at breakfast-time a few weeks ago. This was a considerable achievement. I didn't hear it myself - but when I got homethat same evening my wife said: "They played a most unusual Bing record just after you'd gone this morning. Sounded lovely! I've made a note of it for you.." But of course, she has heard it before - from my set - but, dear soul, doesn't pay sufficient attention. I think Leslie's constant efforts have led to a lot more playing of Crosby records for I myself have heard many of late on the radio.

+ There was one morning when I was out on a remote part of the site, helping to conduct a trial. Now they have loudspeakers even out there - mainly for factory announcements, though they broadcast BBC record programmes at different times. This was a bright, early Summer morning - and suddenly, Bing was singing "Sing A Song of Sunbeams". How great it sounded, too, and led me to reflect that I've listened to Bing in some strange surroundings.

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LES GAYLOR'S BIGGEST-EVER CAMPAIGN:

+ On this occasion, that mellow timbre was resounding through the nearby hills - a great way to listen to Bing!

+ There may be those who will ask: Does Bing, at this stage of his career, with his unrivalled peak of eminence in the show-business world, need or desire the publicity generated by Leslie - or anyone else?

+ Leslie's view - and one I wholeheartedly share - is that Bing, quite simply, is a very human being and must welcome these sound indications that he is in no danger of being forgotten, despite his comparative inactivity these days - tho' that last statement is far from true, incidentally. His career, fortunately, has been extremely lengthy and he has long since passed into the category of a "living legend" and in those circumstances, it would be comparatively easy to fall into a kind of obscurity. Nobody would welcome that, I'm sure Bing wouldn't. And apart from this aspect, it is irksome to read some of those ill-informed articles propagating totally erroneous facts and ill-founded opinions about the part other entertainers play. I myself have often had letters in the press correcting certain mis-statements about who really counts - though not with the prolific success that Les Gaylor achieves. Indeed, I followed up his recent letter in the Daily Mirror - but no follow-ups were printed.

+ And say what you like - it takes real effort and dedication to pursue an admiration, a hobby, with the steadfastness that Les follows it. I think he is deserving of the highest praise, and warmest thanks, from all of us. His patience is unending in writing to producers of radio programmes - even the regional BBC stations come under his eagle eye. For certain Bing is, even today, getting his share of "air-time" - largely through the unrelenting efforts of Leslie Gaylor.

+ +

THE ACTION - as Frank Murphy is wont to remark - CONTINUES ON TV!

+ We had barely got over the pleasure of Crosby films on TV when Bing turned up twice on the same day in BBC programmes. The first occasion was as a guest in the first of a new series of Carol Burnett Shows on BBC 2. Other guests were - unannounced - Bob Hope and the Queen of Jazz Singing, Ella FitzGerald. This was on Sunday, 5th July last.

+ Bing looked remarkably well - and happy - I thought. He scored a big laugh when Bob Hope, who's appearance really seemed unscheduled, informed Bing of the quality of the suit he was wearing. "I had this made in..." (I forget where he said - the American Saville Row, perhaps). Bing came back, quite smartly: "Where were you at the time?" It brought the house down and from Bob's amused surprise I'm sure it was an ad. lib! It certainly brought a tremendous laugh - and clap - from the audience.

+ Once again, however, as is usual in Bing's "live" TV Appearances, the bulk of his vocal effort came in concert with another singer. This time it was Ella, looking incidentally, extremely smart and attractive. They sang, if you didn't catch the programme, a medley of songs associated with Paramount films, including of course several of Bing's own hits, e.g. "Swinging on a Star" and "In The Cool, Cool, Cool, of the Evening." As one would expert from these two masters - or one master and one "mistress" (in the nicest interpretation of the word!) - the songs were put over with tremendous verve and assurance. Bing's admiration, indeed, affection, for Ella shone through very clearly, I thought. Ella refrained, on this occasion, from her higher flights of vocal jazz improvisation, and with Bing in good, relaxed, form as always, the whole was a very exciting performance.

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+ Clearly, two artists acknowledged at the top of their profession, made a very happy combination. Bing's only "solo" was when he sang a prologue, as it were, to a spectacular tribute to the four legendary Marx Brothers. This sounded really great - but was Oh! so short..... the actual Marx Bros. production was well done with Carol Burnett and her chorus dressing up and acting the typical part of each of the famous comedians in turn. She was particularly good as Chico!

+ It is worth remarking that Carol's intfoduction of Bing's appearance was fittingly fulsome, and while the introduction was being made "Learn To Croon" was played. I had to smile when the show was finished and the credits were being shewn. A voice made the portentous announcement that the "number, 'Learn To Croon' was pre-recorded..." I'll say it was - 37 years before, to be precise!

THEN CAME - LOUIS' 70

Later that same evening, on BBC 1 TV, came the Omnibus presentation commemorating the 70th birthday of ol' Satchmo Armstrong which occurred the previous day, July 4th. It was unthinkable that Bing wouldn't appear in such a tribute, and sure enough, after mention of his 30's film work with Mr. Crosby in "Pennies from Heaven" an immediate switch was made to 1956 and we had the classic already referred to - "Now You Has Jazz"! What a treat!

+ Once again I was impressed with what a really fine man Louis Armstrong appears to be. His patent honesty and integrity always shines through in heartwarming fashion. He is a true contemporary of Bing's - and many of the qualities that make Bing what he is are also apparent in Louis Armstrong. Its a safe bet that, like Bing, he's never got an ill-word to say of anyone, nothing but good - and also like Bing, grateful to the public at large for making his life so happy and successful. Would that some of today's performers, possessing a hundredth of their talents, had the same aura of humility. Not grovelling, of course, but a grateful realisation that they are aware that the warmth of the public has sustained them through their careers.

+ So, what a day that Sunday was! Bing, Ella, and Louis, and only a few days before we read the astonishing reports that the 78-year-old Mae West had actually outshone Racquel Welch at their joint film premiere! What a time for the veterans it was.

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I was away from home for the two TV programmes noted above and at the house I was in I mentioned that these two programmes were on and that I particularly wanted to see them. "BBC 2?" my hostess said worriedly, "We're having a lot of trouble getting a good picture....we have to fiddle about with the aerial." The upshot, my friends, believe it or not, was that I spent the entire duration of the Carol Burnett Show holding an indoor aerial at full-stretch above my head! The slightest move made the picture disappear...... Greater love hath no man. But I wasn't going to miss Bing's appearance for the sake of a little discomfort - even if my arms haven't been the same since that night!

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+ Since moving from Cardiff to Cwmbran I have sadly missed by regular "round" of junk-shops which abound in the Principality's capital city. Cwmbran is a new town, and the shops and City centre generally are hygienically clean, not a junk-shop in sight. The only ray of hope was an Oxfam shop that was open three or four days a week. So I began popping in there.......but alas, no old records. So one day I politely asked the lady in charge: "I've visited Oxfam shops in perhaps a score of towns and in every one except this I've been delighted to find a pile of old 78 gramophone records for sale. I wonder if you've realised the potential sales value of such records?"

+ For reply, the good lady said "How long have you been popping in, then?" When I said a couple of months, on and off, she said "Ah, that explains it. We had simply hundreds of them six months ago but they all went. We were delighted! Mind you, we still

(Cont. over.

With profound regret I have again, so soon after dear Leslie Phythian, the melancholy duty of recording a grievous loss in the ranks of the International Crosby Circle, for on 29th June last, Renee, beloved wife of George Smith, our Keighley friends, passed away after a few months of illness.

Those who have attended Michael Crampton's meetings in Leeds of recent years will have met - and remembered - Renee, except for the last one when Renee did not attend as, ominously as we now know, she was "not well".

I myself had the real pleasure of being a guest to Renee and George on a couple of occasions in their Keighley home. And I might add that Renee's forthright yet always kindly ways, not to mention her cheerfulness, were assuredly among the reasons why I always felt at home in Yorkshire, why I always felt "amongst friends". Ours was another prized friendship brought about directly through our mutual admiration of Bing Crosby.

I feel the least I can do - and its little enough at this sombre time - is to combine your condolences with mine and tender to George and his son Michael our great and sincere sympathy in their great loss.

BING CROSBY NO. 8

ACCOMPANIED BY

THE LEGEND ON BING'S RECORD LABELS

+ In case anyone is taking an interest in this series - the intention is to work right through Bing's 96 accompanists on commercial records - an error has crept in in the last two issues. To put the record straight, to coin a phrase, accompanists dealt with so far are as follows:

Issue No.	11	John Scott Trotter.
" "	12	Victor Young.
" "	14	Paul Whiteman.
" "	15	Buddy Cole.
" "	16	Vic Schoen.
" "	17	Gus Arnheim (Supplement).
" "	18	The Dorsey Bros. "

The accompanist for this issue, making No. 8 in the series, is:

JIMMIE GRIER

+ Ah! Jimmie Grier ! One glance at the 19 records Bing made with this band and it is clear that Jimmie Grier has a permanent place in Crosby-history. So, shall we look at that list right away?

No.	Title.	Date	Remarks.
1.	Learn To Croon.	9.6.33	Rejected.
2.	Moonstruck.	"	
3.	My Love.	"	
4.	I've Got To Pass Your House.	"	
5.	Blue Prelude.	13.6.33	
6.	I Would If I Could But I Can't.	"	
7.	Learn To Croon.	"	
8.	Shadow Waltz.	"	
9.	I've Got To Sing A Torch Song.	16.6.33	
10.	There's A Cabin in the Pines.	"	
11.	Down The Old Ox Road.	"	
12.	I Guess It Had To Be That Way.	26.8.33	
13.	Thanks.	27.8.33	
14.	The Day You Came Along.	"	
15.	Black Moonlight.	"	
16.	Little Dutch Mill.	10.3.34	
17.	Shadows of Love.	"	
18.	She Reminds Me of You.	"	
19.	Ridin' Around In The Rain.	13.3.34	

+ That list will surely resolve any doubts as to Jimmie Grier's eminence. Just nine months' association on record but covering a small part of Bing's recorded output in the halcyon years of 1933-34. And the sort of records that make the veterans sigh.

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BING CROSBY ACCOMPANIED BY: JIMMIE GRIER (Cont)

+ You will have observed that the 19 titles is reduced to 18 on account of those inexplicable "rejected".

+ In my mind, and quite likely in yours too, the names of Jimmie Grier and Gus Arnheim seemed linked in some way. Well, the truth is, they were - Jimmie Grier was a saxophone and clarinet-player in Gus's band at the famed Cocoanut Grove of the Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles which we mentioned as the film colony's No. 1 night-spot when dealing with Gus Arnheim. Furthermore, Jimmie was a princiapl arranger for Gus - and to complete the story, Jimmie followed Gus as resident attraction at the Grove with his own band in due course.

+ Clearly, Jimmie was a good musician - not all bandleaders were, necessarily. Listen to any of the 18 recordings listed - again, that is! - and listen this time to the band and you will discover that indeed it was a fine orchestra among fine orchestras of that wonderful, musical, era.

+ It is reported in "The Big Bands" - a book written by George T. Simon, that Jimmie fronted a colourful and musical band that reflected his personality - relaxed, communicative but seldom very disciplined. It goes on to say that the band made a succession of good recordings that featured some excellent vocalists: Dick Webster, a very virile-sounding singer who later became a top Hollywood agent; Larry Cotton, a good tenor who went on to Horace Heidt's Band; Donald Novis, who soon started a career of his own as one of the country's top pop tenors; Harry Barris, who had been on of the original Rhythm Boys that included Bing Crosby, and Pinky Tomlinson who recorded his famous "The Object of My Affection" with Grier's Band. Jimmy, a gregarious gent, liked music and people, liked to entertain, liked to live well and seldom seemed to take either himself or his orchestra very seriously.

+ Well, seems to me someone jumped to some wrong conclusions. Someone was taking the band seriously - by the sound of it. Oddly, this reference to Jimmie Grier in the aforementioned boook does NOT mention that Bing recorded with it, a surprising omission.

+ Songs numbered2, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, were all from early Crosby films, e.g. "College Humor" and "Too Much Harmony", both of which closely followed Bing's first starring film role, "The Big Broadcast of 1932". Whether or not, however, Jimmie Grier's orchestra was used in the films, even off camera, I'm afraid I cannot say. It is possible Jimmie's band was used for the commercial recordings only. No doubt someone can clarify that point. This were all great, memorable, Crosby "standards". The other songs, non-film songs shall we say, are remarkable even in this illustrious list.

+ The record of "Blue Prelude" has long been rated as one of Bing's greatest and is an unfading, undying, favourite of many veteran Crosby collectors. In this great number, witten by Gordon Jenkins, the Grier band is heard in tremendous driving, up-tempo blues style. "I've Got To Sing a Torch Song" another song full of melody redolent of the love ballads of the time. "She Reminds Me of You", "Ridin' Around In The Rain" - great melodies, great lyrics so typical of the golden age of melody.

+ People who have perhaps long ceased collecting gramophone records will never forget Bing singing "Down The Old Ox Road" on the screen. "Black Moonlight" - a favourite, I recall, of Fred Reynolds. "Moonstruck" - Leslie Gaylor's all-time favourite, "Cabin in the Pines" - favourite of the late Leslie Phythian. Eloquent testimony to the enduring niche in Crosby-history carved by Jimmie Grier in a few short months.

+ What finally happened to Jimmie Grier, whether he is still alive, I just don't know. But with Bing, he earned our thanks for years of melody, recorded between June 1933 and March, 1934. Incredible, is it not? Just nine months of joint working. But what a legacy........

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My address, in case you are moved to comment - Reg Bristo, 7, Greenmeadow Close, C W M B R A N, Mon., NP4 3NR.

get some in occasionally, so if you keep looking in I'm sure we'll have some more."

+ I said I was greatly encouraged and would certainly continue to look in -

"Mind you," the lady interrupted, "these were very old - I don't know which ones you particularly want, but these were really old - you know Roy Fox, Lew Stone, BING CROSBY!"

"Oh my goodness," I said, "that's precisely what I'm looking for. And who, may I ask, bought all these - older people, I suppose?"

+"Well, not altogether," answered the good lady, "some did, of course, but quite a number of young people came in, turned them over curiously, and said 'What kind of music is this then?' Anyway, they bought a few and came back the next day, went through them again and bought loads more - especially the Bing's. I like old Bing, don't you?"

+ I weakly replied that I did - cursing inwardly that I had been so late in moving. But, I'll go there again.....

+ +

THE NICEST THINGS

HAPPEN

TO ONE IN THE CROSBY BROTHERHOOD !

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+ I arrived home from work on a Thursday afternoon late in May and immediately sensed the scenery was "different". Its amazing, isn't it, how you get used to seeing the same cars parked each day in the identical spots near one's home? I, as I say, spotted this Estate wagon and on locking my banger and walking towards the house stopped and stared, for a card in the back of this wagon proclaimed "Roy Chappell - the Vocal Entertainer With A Touch of the Bing's."

+ YOu've probably read of Roy in BING before. He plays club dates and other engagements is a great Crosby admirer and loads his act with Crosby numbers - but more of that later. Roy and his fianceee, Anne, were sitting taking tea with Mrs. B. like old friends - and I found out that Roy had been there precisely 15 minutes! I'd never met him, or Anne, before but had heard from him. Indeed, I had expressed the hope that he would drop in if ever he was in the area. Seems Roy had been doing a West Country tour, and on the way home to Levenshulme, Manchester, had a couple of "dates" to fulfill in South Wales, hence his call on the Bristo's.

+ Roy is a very shy chap - but once more, more of that later! But on the subject of Bing well, we soon had the records and tapes going and the interminable Crosby chat was also under way. We had to break off after a couple of hours for Roy had to proceed to Llanelli, some 60 miles away, to his evening's engagement. Before he went, however, Roy got from his car a tape he had recently made with Jimmy Leach, the famous organist. This was my first hearing of Roy - and I was truly astonished. On this tape he sang "June in January", "The Talk of the Town" and a new number by Jimmy Leach, called, coincidentally enough - "The Thrill Is Gone"! As I sat with Roy, a rather slight, smallish, chap - and listened to this big Crosby voice, I just couldn't reconcile the two!

+ Roy turned up the next day to tell us, joyfully, that the next night he was playing a big club on the outskirts of Cardiff - and would we like to be his guests ? That was a question to ask, wasn't it? He told me of some of the tribulations of club-dates: whether the amplication system was good, whether or not the accompanists could "sight read" music, whether they carried on serving drinks etc. when the artists were performing. Clearly, it can be a hard life.

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THE NICEST THINGS: ROY CHAPPELL (Cont)

+ So, full of anticipation, the wife and I hied ourselves off to our former domicile, Cardiff on the Saturday evening and met Roy and Anne. As we entered the club, the first fear was dispelled -- the amplication system was well-night perfect. No hisses, scratches, whining "feed-back" and so on, just asmooth, mellow-toned system with large loudspeakers tastefully - and accoustically - set into the walls. In fact the general decor was both stylish and dignified.

+ I went with Roy to the dressing-room. The manager followed almost immediately and rather tentatively asked: "Would you do two spots for us, Mr. Chappell?" Roy replied, with a smile, "I'll do three or four if you want them - I just love my work!"

+ As Roy was changing for his first appearance, the accompaniment came in - a young organist and drummer. This is the usual accompaniment, these days, I understand. But here again everything was fine. The young chaps were first-class readers and I listened with great interest as Roy ran through his "library" with them.

+ "Verse - non-tempo, just follow me: Snap into tempo for chorus, repeat chorus, finish .....this is my special arrangement! Strong beguine rhtym throughout please, just once through, then repeat last two lines.., (This was for "Temptation", by the way.) And so on, the young organist nodded, asked a question or two, checked, then said: "Right, that's okay Roy." And off they went to play for the dancing.

+ In 20 minutes or so, after checking with Roy, the M.C. introduced him to his first spot. And once again, as so often in the past, I was forcibly struck with the personality of professional performers. Off-stage, Roy is extremely quiet-spoken and shy, almost withdrawn. But as soon as he is on-stage - he becomes the complete extrovert! This ability is, I'm convinced, an intrinsic part of artists' make-up. There are, of course, some who are extroverts all the time, but a large proportion have this, for want of a better expression, Jekyll & Hyde character though not in the horrific way that expression conjures up!

+ Anyway, Roy got off to a spirited start with "Dear Hearts and Gentle People". As I said, the sound system was first class, the accompaniment was very, very, good - but the audience was hard! At least, until Roy was half-way through this first number - then he clicked, got home, and got appreciative attention. Next came "Blue of the Night" - verse as well, a la Bing. And for the first time in many years, I heard a well-filled club echoing to this lovely melody, this wonderfully nostalgic melody, as Roy led them in a second chorus.

+ I suspect that inside Roy Chappell, the singer, is a comedian struggling to get out! Throughout his act he slips in gentle wise-cracks - a typical example was when he said "I like to sing for you now a number that Bing Crosby did in great style many years ago, but it has been revived so often it never dies.....TEMPTATION....and incidentally, this is my latest recording on the I.C.I (½) label." Les than 50 per cent of the audience caught on... There followed "Brother Can You Spare A Dime" - the whole audience joining Roy again in "Just An Echo", and countless other favourite Bing numbers.

+ In between times Roy joined us at the table in the club when dancing was in progress, and it was heart-warming the number of people that came across to shake hands and thank Roy for his fine singing. "You don't hear many good singers -- or songs -- these days. You obviously admire Bing Crosby very much." and so on.

+ In his subsequent spots Roy interspersed the Crosby numbers with some of the better modern ballads such as "Love's Been Good To Me" and "Can't Help Falling In Love With You". Roy's phrasing, and much of his tone, is authentic Bing though he retains a style of his own, which is how it should be. To my wife's untutored (?) ears: "To me, he's exactly like Bing!"

+ The previous evening during our tape and record playing, I wasn't surprised to find that Roy, like me, had a tremendous affection for the couple of numbers Bing did with the Firehouse Two plus Five -- eh, wait a minute, its the other way round, but I can't erase it now - and I'm sure you know the outfit I mean.

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+ There is no album of Bing with these happy-go-lucky jazzmen worse luck, but some radio excertpts exist of Bing singing "Everybody Loves My Baby" and "Please Don't Talk About Me When I'm Gone" - two glorious efforts. Now, for the finale of his act, Roy is joined by his fiancee Anne, for a Dixieland ragtime medley during which they sing "Don't Talk About Me". I don't know whether Roy does it on every occasion, or whether it was out of impish déference to me - but he repeated, note for note, that wonderful, jazz, ad-lib, that Bing does in this number. It sounded just tremendous.

+ Altogether, we had a great night - and if you should see Roy billed around your way, I urge you to go along and see and hear him. He's well worth it. As a matter of fact, its a sad commentary on the state of show-business today that such a fine singer and artist doesn't get the big break he clearly deserves. But as we well know, good voices are not the criterion now, more's the pity.

+ Roy's biggest break, I believe, was a three-year stint with Sid Phillips and his Band and as a matter of interest, there is an excellent chance that Roy will be used on the next Sid Phillips' album. If it comes to fruition I'll keep you informed.

+ Unbeknown to Roy, as a postscript, I wrote to Norrie Paramor who was responsible for most of Mike Holliday's accompaniments suggesting that if he was interested in another Mike Holliday, he should listen to Roy, emphasising that I was no agent and had no axe to grind, apart from desiring to see a good singer get a break. Norrie sent me a most friendly reply saying that while he had, perforce, to wear a "pop" hat much of the time, he would be glad to listen to a tape of Roy Chappell. I immediately passed this on to Roy - and await developments.

+ Incidentally, you may be interested to know that Norrie Paramor sent his warmest regards to all members of the International Crosby Circle in his letter to me - which is a kind thought and much appreciated, I'm sure.

+ Speakinf of Mike Holliday, I recall Fred Reynolds, a friend of Mike's, telling me the same thing about him as I have remarked about Roy - that is, that his stage personality was completely different to his private one. Mike too, I understood, was painfjlly shy and withdrawn when not performing. Astonishing, isn't it?

+ +

BOB HOPE IRREVERENT AS EVER!

+ It was Bob Hope, wasn't it, who originally dubbed Bing "The Old Groaner" - a most irreverent appellation! But knowing these two, it might easily have been Bing's suggestion! Their life-time of verbal sparring has never let up, and has undoubtedly been good "for business". In case you missed it, I am reporting the latest irreverencies of Mr. Hope on the subject of Bing Crosby.

+ Bob Hope was, apparently down for entry in the Sean Connery Invitation Golf Tournament at Troon on July 4 and 5 but had to withdrawn. Seems he sent the following message to the organisers, which was headed:

"NO HOPE - BOB SAVES US FROM ANOTHER SKINHEAD.

+ "I am really sorry that I can't make your golf tournament, but President Nixon has asked me to be the Chairman of an 'Honor America Day' in Washington on July 4. It'll be the biggest affair for years.

+ "I was really looking forward to giving you another golf lesson, but the President asked me to do this show. In a way I couldn't refuse - he had a Marine tattoo the invitation on my forehead. Maybe delaying my visit is just as well, what with the

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"BOB HOPE - IRREVERENT AS EVER" (Cont)

World Cup and the General Election, how many laughs can you stand?

"I will be back in dear old Jolly before the end of the month so get ready. I am driving my golf-cart on the left. Finally, I am getting in training for the Motherland - kippers for breakfast, crumpets for tea, and every four hours I gargle with Schh...you know what!

"I WAS GOING TO GET CROSBY TO STAND IN FOR ME, THEN I THOUGHT ONE THING BRITAIN DOESN'T NEED IS ANOTHER SKIN-HEAD. OF COURSE, DAD DOESN'T GO OUT MUCH NOW. JUST OCCASIONALLY TO THE BANK!"

+ Well, you've got to hand it to Bob - he's always funny. Yet Bing invariably holds his own with this No. 1 quick-fire wisecracker.

ANOTHER POINT OF VIEW

- AND IT'S CERTAINLY WORTH EXPRESSING - AND APPRECIATING...

+ Edward Towler and I were recently "arguing" in the nicest possible way about the merits or demerits of the "Hey Jude" album. I was delighted to receive the following letter from a schoolboy forsooth! I met the young writer, Ken Crossland, at Mike Crampton's last October. He, too, lives in Leeds, which must be a great town pardon, CITY, for youthful Crosby admirers. Read young Kenneth's letter:

"Since receiving your last 'Crosby Commentary' I've been wanting to write to you about an album I'd love to have Bing record - but with 'O' levels at school I've had no spare time since May. I've even had to stop listening to Bing a lot! Although you may recall we met at Mike Crampton's last October, I don't think we had a very long chat. Therefore you probably won't know of my particular taste in Bing. Contrary to the majority of club members, my favourite part of Bing's career is NOW! I really enjoy listening to Bing over the last ten years, especially the more modern stuff like 'Hey Jude' etc. Its probably since I'm a teenager that the modern stuff is my favourite. Incidentally, I do enjoy quite a lot of 'pop' and I really think there are some great songs being written by writers like Bob Russell, Rod McKuen, etc. However, to get back to the proposed album, these are the tracks, my own favourite modern songs, with one or two 'oldies' thrown in:

1. Gentle On My Mind.
2. 1432 Franklyn Pike Circle Hero.
3. Mame.
4. Sunshine Wine.
5. If The Whole World Stopped Loving.
6. Cabaret.

1. Ob-la-di, ObOla-Da.
2. My Heart Is An Open Book.
3. Honey.
4. Love's Been Good To Me.
5. Mandolins in the Moonlight.
6. Magic Moments.

+ "I think most of them will be familiar. 'Mandolins in the Moonlight' and "Sunshine Wine" are known to me because I have Perry Como singing them. The former was released in 1969. Both are great songs, the first is Italian flavoured and are made for Bing. If you cast your mind back over the last twelve years you should be able to recall the others.

+"I know that this album will never come about, but maybe he'll do some of them. I hope he records 'Honey' for this is my favourite song of all time and must have the most tear-jerking lyrics ever written. But deep down, of course, I'd echo the statement - 'Just sing, Bing. Anything will do!

+ "I was surprised and sorry to read that Frank was retiring from editing BING but I'd

(Cont. over

like to wish you the best of luck in taking over and I hope we will be able to strike up a similar friendship by post as the one I have with Frank. And, of course, my recent labours at school, and my future ones at school and university are designed to make me into a journalist, and since I hope to learn to type shortly maybe in the future I'll be able to write some articles for BING.

Best wishes,

Ken Crossland".

+ +

Well, there's yet another young Editor for BING in the future! Its very heart-warming for us veterans - shall I say? - who have been listening to Bing for close on 40 years to learn of these youngsters coming under the Crosby spell. We're constantly hearing of them. It's easy to understand - and yet, is it? How can we place ourselves in the position of a youngster still at school, to whom 1931-32 must seem ancient history? And yet - his tastes are, to an extent and with apologies to Ed. Towler - ours.

+ Anyway, young Ken likes the PRESENT Bing - and certainly his views are well worth airing here. I'm sure you will agree. There's certainly room for lads of his calibre and discerning taste. Still, let's talk about his choice of songs for Bing to sing.

+ Perry Como I like as an able disciple of Bing for his smooth, well-phrased, singing - very nice tones. He sounded great too when he was a band vocalist with the famous Ted Weems Orchestra in the early 40's. I'm well acquainted with "Magic Moments" - a good song with good lyrics: remember?

"The day that the floor fell out of the car when I put the clutch down"?

+ This was '57/58 if I remember rightly - and the record I have of this song is, oddly enough, by Denny Dennis, the "British Bing Crosby" on the Woolworth's Embassy label. "Gentle On My Mind" I'm familar with, of course. "My Heart is an Open Book" - this was a Mike Holliday hit, was it not? "If The Whole World Stopped Loving.." - yes, okay. "Love's Been Good To Me" ditto. I must confess, with or without shame, that I don't know "Mandolins in the Moonlight" - but it sounds terrific! Nor do I know "Sunshine Wine", "Honey", and "1432 Franklyn Pike Circle Hero" - and I must confess this last title makes me blanch a little! Bing has already sung a number of these on TV in America - the Beatles "Ob-la-di-Oh-bla-do", "Cabaret", "Love's Been Good To Me".

+ Ken shouldn't be despondent about never getting this album. This may easily catch Bing's or Larry'sseye, and the list may need slight modification - for instance, while I personally would like "Gentle" it has been a little done to death, perhaps.

+ I wish Ken the very best of good luck with his studies. Journalism isn't an easy profession to crash into....but he has the makings, I feel certain. I would like to hear from Ken on how the early Crosby impresses him - the old Columbias and Brunswicks. Songs like "Playing With Fire" and "Love You Funny Thing", "Two Cigarettes in the Dark" and those scores of others from the golden age.

+ + + Finally, thank you young Ken for your good wishes..... + + + + + + + + + + + + +

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On the next page I make a slight departure from my usual format in that I have a "guest" writer! This is no "closed shop" - so if you can take a hint! On the other hand, I am not out to make two magazines out of one

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+ We could have expected to have seen a lot more of Bing in Douglas Fairbans's TV trilogy on Hollywood. Apart from a "still" of Bing, Bob & Dottie, and a brief glimpse of Bing on a racecourse in a newsreel there was nothing - and after all, Bing was top box-office draw for ten consecutive years in the period he was dealing with. I imagine difficulties in getting film excerpts from the various companies often shapes these in ways, perhaps, the producer didn't really bargain for.

"BING WITH A BEAT"

BY PETER TANNER

Some years ago, January 1946, a small British jazz magazine of the period called JAZZ TEMPO asked a number of critics and jazz collectors, your correspondent included, the question: "Can Crosby sing jazz?" The unanimous opinion of the dozen or so interviewed was an emphatic "Yes". Bing Crosby records such as "Mississippi Mud", "Some of These Days", "My Honey's Lovin' Arms", "Moonburn", "Someday Sweetheart", and "Rhythm On The River" were cited as good examples of Bing's considerable ability in this respect. To which might be added "One More Time" with Gus Arnheim's orchestra, and "St. Louis Blues" with the Duke Ellington Orchestra, not forgetting, of course, Bing's delightful duets with both Jack Teagarden and Louis Armstrong.

+ It is sometimes forgotten that Bing is a musician as well as a superlative singer and that his early years were spent in the company, on and off the bandstand, of some of the leading jazz players of the late 'Twenties and early 'Thirties. It is certain that musicians of the calibre of Bix Beiderbecke, Frankie Trumbauer, Joe Venuti, Eddie Lang, Joe Sullivan and the Dorsey Brothers had an influence upon the young Crosby.

+ Later on, when he became a top recording and radio star, Bing used jazz musicians to accompany him on many occasions, notably those from his brother Bob Crosby's Orchestra and the top West Coast jazz sessioners usually assembled under the direction of John Scott Trotter.

+ A number of these performances were reissued together on a Brunswick LP a few years back called "BING & THE DIXIELAND BANDS""(Brunswick LAT 8228) and more recently on Ace of Hearts, AH 31. These tracks, dubbed from 78's, date from a May 1941 version of "Be Honest With Me" to a December 1952 duet with Connie Boswell of the Dixieland classic "That's A'Plenty". Both have excellent accompaniments by John Scott Trotter's orchestra.

+ The year 1942 is represented with "I Want My Mama", "When My Dreamboat Comes Home" and "Walking The Floor Over You". On the first Bing is accompanied by Woody Herman's Woodchoppers, a less interesting performance than one might suppose, mostly due to the banality of the tune. However, Bing does his best with the rather nauseating lyric, the band riffs away pleasantly behind him and there's some good piano from Tony Linehan. Very much better all round are the other two numbers on which Bing receives really swinging backing from the Bob Crosby Bobcats. "Dreamboat" is excellent material for Bing and he gives a faultless performance while the Bob Cats go to town for a chorus in the middle, featuring some forceful trumpet from Yank Lawson. Much the same remarks apply to "Walking The Floor Over You"; another good tune on which Matty Matlock plays some fine clarinet obligato behind Bing on the second chorus, while Eddie Miller provides the well-played tenor sax improvisation before Bing comes back for the final chorus.

+ 1946 is represented by "After You've Gone" and "Blue" with accompaniment by the Eddie Condon band. This is just the sort of righteous Dixieland group with which Bing loves to sing just for the fun of it, and this relaxed feeling comes over extremely well on both songs. The tempo change after the first chorus on "After You've Gone" is particularly effective and there is some good solo work to be heard here, both from Joe Sullivan at the piano and Bud Freeman on tenor before Bing swings it out with Wild Bill Davison's trumpet growling away in the background. "Blue" is taken slow and easy, and is one more example of Bing's uncanny sense of the correct tempo for a number, a very important and often overlooked factor in the success of a performance. Joe Dixon takes the sensitive clarinet chorus halfway through which is in perfect context to the whole.

(Cont. over...

"BING WITH A BEAT": By Peter Tanner (Cont)

+ However, the high spot of this album is undoubtedly the Crosby version of "Ida, Sweet As Apple Cider" with a really superb accompaniment from the John Scott Trotter Dixieland Group. Bing himself starts the band with: "A one, a two.." and off they go. A really rhythmic but beautifully controlled performance with Bing at the top of his form and a fine cornet solo from Red Nichols, recalling his version of this number in his old Five Pennies days.

+ The same group, but with Buddy Cole soloing on piano in place of Red Nichols, provides swinging accompaniment to Bing's 1952 version of "Nobody's Sweetheart" - a fine old standard and an ideal vehicle for Bing at any time. The remaining three tracks, "Goodbye, My Lover, Goodbye" (recorded 1947), "The Dixieland Band" and "Jamboree Jones" (both recorded in 1950) all receive accompaniment by the Bob Haggart orchestra to which is added a vocal group, The Jesters, on the first title. Bob Haggart, who played bass with the Bob Crosby band for many years (remember his "Big Noise from Winnetka" with drummer Ray Bauduc?), is also a first class arranger and all three performances have that stamp of quality which one has come to expect as a matter of course on a Crosby record.

+ I have borrowed the title of the second Crosby LP that I would like to discuss as the heading for this article. "BING WITH A BEAT" (RCA RD 27032) was recorded during the course of two days in February 1957 and Bing is accompanied by Bob Scobey's 'Frisco Jazz Band. This is Bing at his happiest and most relaxed, singing a joyful set of old standards along with a fine bunch of top Dixieland style jazz musicians. As the sleeve comments: "It's all for one and one for all....The Scobey band swinging in complete harmony for a singer whom they couldn't possibly admire more".

+ In many ways this is one of the most spontaneous LPs that Bing has ever recorded and if anyone should ever think that the greatest pop singer of them all can't sing jazz, then this is the album to give them the life. The mood is set from the start with a really swinging and really relaxed version of that fine evergreen "Let A Smile Be Your Umbrellaon a Rainy Afternoon". Somehow, right from Bing's effortless introductory interpretation of the verse, you know you can sit back and enjoy the whole programme. The band backs him to the hilt all the way and its a fine bunch of musicians, musicians who have been, for the most part, brought up with jazz alll their lives.

+ Bob Scobey, who tragically died of cancer in June, 1963, aged forty-six, was raised in California and had been playing trumpet since he was nine. In 1940 he joined Lu Watters Yerba Buena Jazz Band, pioneers of the revivalist jazz movement, and remained with them for almost ten years before forming his own band. On trombone is veteran Abe Lincoln, a most accomplished player who is still going strong today in the Los Angeles area. Also still heard a great deal today is clarinettist Matty Matlock, late of the Bob Crosby band, and who was also responsible for all the arrangements on this album. The pianist is Ralph Sutton, now with the Lawson-Haggart band; a great player in the stride piano style and a devotee of the late Fats Waller. Clammy Hayes on guitar (not a bad singer either). Red Callender on bass and Nick Fatool on drums make up a pretty strong rhythm section. The band is rounded out with Dave Harris on tenor sax and Frank Beach on second trumpet.

+ It is hard to pick out the high spots here and every Crosby enthusiast is bound to have his favourite tracks. However, it would be equally hard to top Bing's superb version of "Exactly Like You". If there's a more relaxed and swinging version of this 1930 pop song, then I have yet to hear it. Bing and the band really dovetail their ideas on this one and the performance, complete with some great scat singing from Bing, gives the impression of an impromptu jazz session.

+ Other fine tracks in this album include "Some Sunny Day", "Whispering", and "Last Night on the Back Porch". To each and every one is brought that particular brand of magic that Bing can import to almost every song he sings. What a consummate artist he is. In this case, relaxed, rhythmic and, above all, adding his own inimitable personality to every bar he sings.

+ I am sure that everyone must agree that, given the right accompaniment, Bing is equally at home in the jazz style as he is singing a ballad, or any other kind of song come to that.

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"BING WITH A BEAT": (Cont)

+ As some of you will know, Peter Tanner is not only a knowledeable but a respected jazz critic and collector and his views are well worth reading. I'm very happy to present this story from his pen. I must confess that, knowing of Peter's jazz - and for that matter, "commercial" dance music knowledge, I did not know that he was such a Crosby devotee as this article reveals. "What a consummate artist he (Bing) is..." That's the kind of rapporte I appreciate.

+ I myself have no doubts as to Bing's ability to sing jazz - superby, as he does every other type of song. There is, however, a school of thought mainly among veteran jazz collectors and criries, that Bing emerged as a jazz singer but soon lost the ability - or the desire. Which means he achieved "commercial" suggess (I'll say he did!) and that in the view of some of the aforementioned cribics is a heinous crime, never to be forgiven, either in a singer or a band or an instrumentalist! However, what is inherently present can seldom be eradicated and for my money, if the song requires it (and sometimes when it doesn't!) Bing is as good at singing jazz as he is "White Christmas".

+ Peter's reference to Bing's early days with the jazz "greats" is very pertinent. As a matter of fact I have made the point before that often Bing's singing incorporated ad libs. which were actually a musicians phrasing, e.g. an improvisation by a grumpeter, trombonist, clarinettist, etc. Listen to the finish up of "I'm Gonna Get You", and listen again to Bing's early singing of "Reaching For Someone" with Paul Whiteman. Sitting in with Bix, Trumbauer, Lang & co. Bing naturally, and easily, adopted their phrasing to an extent nobody else can hope to emulate.

+ And, you may laugh, but I hear Bing singing jazz in the most unexpected places. Listen to the last stanza of that schmaltzy song "Snuggled On Your Shoulder" :

" Let me dance for ever....."

Bing sings that with an incredible jazz inflection. He often did it in the most unlikely numbers. And when he whistles it's always a jazz improvisation. In fact, I like to think that it was his absence of an instrument that led him to do this whistling. He was expressing his jazz feeling. It's certainly evident in - "Blue of the Night"! One last word - we don't want to overstate the case - if "Mr. Gallagher & Mr. Shean", that fantastic duet between Bing and Johnny Mercer (the latter bravely holding on!) had NOT been a famous old musichall song, but had come upon us new, entitled, say "Dissertation on the Origins of Jazz", it would have been held up as a vocal jazz classic. Some of Bing's ad libs. and rhythmic interpolations in this ripalong song are really incredible. I thought so in 1939 -- I still think so, only more so!

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DISCROSBY

WE ALL, IT SEEMS, ENJOY CHATTING ABOUT BING'S RECORDS - old and not so old.....We're glad Bing's kinda glad he made all those phonograph records!

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+ I had quite a surprise a few pages back when I compiled that fairly short list of records Bing made with Jimmie Grier and his Band for I found that I am very familiar with all of them — except one! Furthermore, I made the alarming discovery that not only do I not have the record, but as far as I can recall I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD IT! I see that it has not been reissued since its original release on Br. 1649 here in 1933 which in itself makes it fairly rare.

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+ But I can't help pondering why, when every other record Bing made with Grier became legendary "My Love" seems to have been the exception proving the rule. Would anyone care to tell me about the number please?

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+ Of the newer numbers of Bing's I never tire of hearing is that beautiful melody "Friendly Persuasion", appearing on the Longines Set. One might say it pleasures me in a hundred ways! It really is a lovely song and truth to tell it seems a pity such a fine version by Bing is comparatively "wasted" in a set which is virtually private. I'm thinking it may have made a good commercial issue.

+ + +

+ "Blue Prelude" was once the theme, or signature tune, of the Woody Herman Band. This was his first outfit and was a co-operative aggregation - "The Band That Plays The Blues". It follows that Gordon Jenkins the composer, was one of the bands arrangers hence the tie-up. Woody of course is one of the few "big-band-era" leaders still active -- and still highly regarded, though the "herds", as his successive bands have been called, have changed constantly over the 30-odd years Woody has been a bandleader.

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+ I'm not altogether certain that Gordon Jenkins did, in fact, write "Blue Prelude" for another reference says that a chap named Bishop wrote it. Bing's records show "Jenkins-Bishop" - but I recall an occasion when I lauded "Blue Prelude" one of our Australian friends told us it was Jenkins. Woody was an accompanist of Bing's in seven titles - yet to come in the Accompanists series - and a further point of interest is that when he was starting out he did stints with both Harry Sosnick - and Gus Arnheim! Whether or not he was in the band in 1931 when Bing was singing with it at the Grove I cannot be sure. Its well-know, however, that Bing's career is full of such "old-friends" remembrances, for to accompany Bing Crosby was a feather in any bandleader's cap. Bing remembered his old associates.

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+ As already noted, however, it was Jimmie Grier behind Bing on the record in question - and Grier was in the Arnheim band ! Before he formed his own, of course, and followed Gus into the Grove.

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A little diversion - you will have read in the last issue of BING of Frank Murphy's impending "retirement" from the I.C.C. for domestic reasons and because of the demands of his time-consuming job as a cinema-manager. Many of the keen Crosbyites have had the happy idea to make a presentation to Frank in appreciation of the sterling work he has done over the past 15 years in keeping Crosbyana alive and well. Should anyone want to join this little group - I'm going to - will they please send a donation - its up to you from, say, 2/6d upwards (!) - to Michael Crampton, 1, Langbar Square, Whinmoor, Leeds, Yorks WITHIN A WEEK OF RECEIVING THIS ISSUE. As it is the intention to make the presentation at Mike's meeting in Leeds towards the end of September, time is getting short. Many thanks.

+ In Peter Tanner's story of "Bing With A Beat" he dealt extensively with the Brunswick "Bing & the Dixieland Bands". It reminded me of the EP that came with the same title. Three of the numbers were, in fact, also on the LP but the fourth was not: "It Had To Be You". This has accompaniment by John Scott Trotter's Dixieland Group, featuring again Red Nichols on CORNET. I hope Peter has this track for it really is a beauty, Bing superb as ever and Red playing a cornet obligato, some phrases of which I can only describe as "poignant". The "duet" between Bing and Red is quite outstanding - and if Peter doesn't have it I'll be very happy to tape it for him.

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+ They did some strange things with record selections then. I have four or five, if not more EP's containing three numbers that are also on LP's with the fourth NOT, and therefore, making the EP desirable. There is the Fontana "REMEMBER?" - three of the titles on several albums, but "Let's Put Out The Lights" is on none. There is the Phillips "Crosby Classics" and its the same again: "Moonstruck" is on it and not on LP whereas the other three numbers are. The MGM Bing and Satchmo is slightly different. The original record carried "Bye, Bye Blues" but the MFP budget issue did not. So one needs the MCM EP if one has only the MFP - for the MGM EP carries - "Bye, Bye Blues"!

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+ Another Phillips EP entitled "BING" has "My Honey's Lovin' Arms"; "Please"; "Some of These Days" and "Shine". The first three are freely available on LP but "Shine" - that immortal with the Mills Brothers that just could NOT be done today on account of the racial problems - is missing from LP's. As I said - its odd!

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+ Reverting to the Dixieland theme, that fabulous performance of "That's A'Plenty" by Bing and Connie Boswell, also mentioned by Peter Tanner, was one of several numbers NOT recorded in the Decca studios. Seems it was taken from a radio transcription direct.

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+ I'm continually remarking on the fact that it is possible to listen to a record scores of times - and then suddenly realise something about that record that you seemed to have overlooked previously. I was reminded strongly of this the other day. Let's put it this way: Can you name offhand a recording on which Bing was accompanied, among other instruments of course, with the HARP? I expect there are scores if we care to listen to them properly - but the one I have in mind is "I Love You Truly", the first record Bing did for Decca in 1934. Another record in which the harp was strong will come to mind for many readers - "Down By The River". This, of course, was for "descriptive" rippling-water effect. In the two recordings mentioned the orchestra was that of Georgie Stoll. Most large orchestras of this type did carry a harpist, often for dreaming "linking" passages. On the other hand, perhaps Paul Whiteman included a harp in his vast aggregation! Anyway, its something to listen for.

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+ Well, that's it again. I didn't leave much room for Discrosby, did I. Cheers....

"RHYTHM ON THE RIVER"

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BING TOPICS FROM HULL

BY

ALF FARROW

AFAFAFAFAFAFAFAFAFAFAFAFAFAFAFAFAFAFAFAF

Sunday, 8th. March -7.45pm - Rowan and Martin's Laugh-in on B.B.C. 2 - how many of you saw it ? Three very quick appearances of Bing, a very fit and tanned looking Bing indeed! I wonder if Dick Martin took notice of Bing's advice on a "slice" shot at golf ? He should, because Bing knows his golf as he proceeded to show in his Commentary on his own "Special" golf tourney on B.B.C.I. a few Saturdays later. Top-name golfers listened to his comments on their play and the golf course - a sure sign that he (Bing) knew what he was talking about!

I suppose most of you saw the film "High Time" on B.B.C.I. recently ? This film is one I missed and I thoroughly enjoyed it even though the singing was sparse. But the music throughout was marvellous with exquisite piano interludes. Who could wonder at that because the credits at the beginning contained the name of Mancini! When Bing was polishing the floor, on his hands and knees, four trombones were wailing the blues along with piano and rhythm section and the sound was terrific - I liked it so much I left it in my edited version of the soundtrack! Thank you, Mr. Mancini!

At a recent get-together in Hull here, of Frank Briggs, Vic Gilmore and myself, we played "Memories are made of this" - just to listen to the musical arrangement of the song. And we detected that Bing was singing with a definate smile in his notes as if appreciating the great sound from the orchestra. Those of you who have it - play it - and see what you think!

These get-togethers in Hull are very much looked forward to to by we trio and apart from the listening angle quite a sizeable time is spent in discussion.- or Crosbyana and other topics. March I4th. was the last big one we held and we played Bing solid for nearly six hours after tea! But Frank and I (Alf), squeezed in an hour or two during the afternoon - just for good measure! Frank did the honours by pouring out a sparkling glass of Double Diamond for us. Can you all imagine it - Bing and Double Diamond ?

Very memorable occasions, believe me, and I know that others in Yorkshire experience the same periodically and I can think of no other way in spending one's leisure time than listening to Bing! Here's to the next time (shades of Henry Hall ?). Star of night was the "Going Hollywood" LP from Australia. A great record of early Bing and extremely well reported by Michael Crampton in the last issue of "BING".

Since that last big meeting we have had few hours each Wednesday night at my home and on these occasions I have benifited greatly as regards "dubbing" of Bing material which included a full copy of "How the West was won" - for which I thank Bob Roberts for a really beautiful job - thanks very much, Bob, and what a great collection of wonderful songs.

BING TOPICS FROM HULL by ALF FARROW continued.....

Oh, yes! and thanks to Reg Bristo for the dubbing of "Loves old sweet song" - short but sweet and greatly appreciated.

Listened to Montavani on B.B.C.2. on 24th. June and heard a really beautiful version of Streets of Laredo" and sat afterwards wondering what Bing would have done with it, with such a wonderful backing ? He does a great job of it in "How the West was won" but let's face it Mantovani is Mantovani, isn't he ? - if you see what I mean ?

Carol Burnett was genuinely sincere when, in her show, she said that she was so thrilled to have a star of such magnitude as Bing on her show. And he proceeded to prove just how much he deserves such praise with his delicious duet with Carol and his appearance in a very funny sketch with her, as a waitress, serving Bing his lunch! What a riot and to top it off in walks Bob Hope at the end, resulting in the usual backchat between himself and Bing!

Well, I gave our amiable Secretary a ring on Wednesday 22nd. July, just for word or two with him and to find out how things were progressing I.C.C.-wise. He said that he had just taken his apron off from washing up and was just going out to do a bit of shopping! Reason ? Mrs. Murphy was in hospital and had presented him with another Male Murphy to be named Christopher! All I.C.C. members will join me, I know, in wishing Mr and Mrs Frank Murphy very sincere congratulations on the birth of their sixth chick. All the best, Alma and Frank.

That's it for this time, so, all the best to you all, maybe some more chat from Hull next issue.

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THIS IS AMERICA - DAILY EXPRESS June I6th I970

IN THE MONEY STAKES THE JOKES ON BING

In the old familair Hollywood days it used to be a sad but regular story. Film stars made a quick fortune, then frittered it all away. Not anymore. This week, SHOW MAGAZINE comes out with a list of America's wealthiest show folk and proves that ertainers know how to make money and keep it.

It is no surprise to see British born BOB HOPE topping the list with a whopping 700 million dollars made mostly from shrewd land deals.

Right behind him is his old pal BING CROSBY, who is always making jokes about Hope's fat bank balance. Bing is worth 400 million dollars made mostly from frozen food, oil and entertainment ventures.

Hollywood's cowboy stars prove to be canny chaps as well. GENE AUTRY has assets estimated at 200 million dollars while ROY ROGERS is worth I00 million dollars. Semi-active actors, FRED McMURRAY, JOEL McCREA and RANDOLPH SCOTT are also in the ROY ROGERS bracket.

The men who have made most of their fortune from their own entertainment efforts include HERB ALPERT and FRANK SINATRA who both own record companies and check in at I00 million dollars.

The list does not include non Americans like ELIZABETH TAYLOR and CHARLIE CHAPLIN who would be near the top of what must be the most exclusive club in the world.

Bing writes a personal letter to LESLIE GAYLOR

BING CROSBY

July 24, I970

Dear Leslie;

Thanks for sending me the material about Louis Armstrong and the special issue celebrating his birthday.

This is quite a big year for Louis. He's being honored with quite a few functions, and you may be sure he well deserves them. One of the greatest men I ever knew. Marvelous musical talent.

I don't know anything about any possible albums, Leslie. The record companies put these things together; and I never hear about it until later.

I don't have any plans to make anything new - at least, no definate plans.

I have another big year planned for television - about I5 or I6 appearances, as I did last year.

I'm doing a dramatic show in September for what they call "Movie of the Week" It appears on television. It's an hour and a half show - I hope it turns out well.

Then I have a big Special planned, and guest shots with Flip Wilson, Dean Martin, Don Knotts, Bob Hope and others. Looks like a busy year.

Hope you're keeping well.

Always your friend,

Signed BING

BC:Im

Bing Crosby

Les writes

Any member requiring a copy of the "Goldilocks" album can have one or more from the following address - I have heard from Mrs Fay Powers of Public Relations Department of Evans and Black.

Send money order addressed to

GOLDILOCKS RECORD OFFER
Evans and Black Carpet Mills Inc
Box 47266
Dallas
Texas-75247
U.S.A.

2 Dollars 25 cents per disc (this amount covers the postage -

from Middlesbrough in the North of England
THE PETER WILSON COLUMN

Thursday July 9th 1970

Dear Frank,

Many thanks for the latest edition of Bing and your recent letter. Having moved house recently I've been very busy rececorting to suit our own taste. I've got a two bedroomed bungalow just outside the town, and it's very easy to paint and clean etc.

Well Frank, like many other club members I was very surprised and sorry to hear that you'll be retiring from active club life next year. However when I read your reasons for your decision I can quite understand your position. Your family must come first and I'm sure Reg Bristo will make a fine successor.

Things have been very quiet of late Bingwise. No films for a while and very few records, But Sunday July 5th was a double ration day for Crosby fans for Bing was on TV in two programmes. First he was on BBC 2 as a guest on THE CAROL BURNETTE SHOW then later he appeared on film in THE "SATCHMO" STORY on BBC I.

In THE CAROL BURNETTE SHOW he sang a couple of songs with his 'hostess' then took part in a comedy sketch in a restaurant at the end of which BOB HOPE made a surprise appearance. The other guest on the show was ELLA FITZGERALD who sang with Bing and the show ended with Bing talking about the old 'Road' films.

Later the same evening on BBC I we had the SATCHMO STORY. On this programme we saw an extract from the MGM film of 1956 HIGH SOCIETY in which Bing and Satch' sang NOW YOU HAS JAZZ

A few weeks ago I bought an album of records, 6 in all, entitled THOSE MEMORY YEARS. It comprises over 100 famous songs by equally famous artists and the set is sold in a special box complete with an index and three years guarantee. Bing sings three songs in the set which also features among others, such great names as, GUY LOMBARDO, EDDIE CANTOR, TOMMY DORSEY, BOB HOPE, THE INK SPOTS, NAT 'KING' COLE, BOB CROSBY, JUDY GARLAND, GLENN MILLER etc.

Bing sings PENNIES FROM HEAVEN, MOONLIGHT BECOMES YOU and WAY BACK HOME on the set, one more song than Nat 'King' Cole who does two numbers. Another artist, the one and only JIMMY DURANTE sings his famous INKA DINKA DOO - he does a bit of crooning and finishes on a high note saying 'dat note was given to me by Bing Crosby and boy was he glad to get rid of it'.

Being busy moving house I've missed listening to the radio but here are a few of the Bing tracks I've managed to catch on the air.

APRIL	6	FANCY MEETING YOU HEAR
	14	TEAMWORK
	20	COMIN' ROUND THE MOUNTAIN
	23	POOR PEOPLE OF PARIS
	24	WELL DID YOU EVAH
	30	PAPER DOLL
MAY	1	SOUTH OF THE BORDER
	3	THE WAITER, THE PORTER AND THE UPSTAIRS MAID
JUNE	6	WHEN I TAKE MY SUGAR TO TEA
	30	STRAIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE

Kind regards to all club members - see you all next issue - Peter.

WEDNESDAY AUGUST I2 - A RED LETTER DAY AT NORTHERN H.Q.

The delayed publication date of this issue, occasioned mainly by the confusion which has reigned supreme these past few weeks, has resulted, nevertheless in my being able to bring you a delightful few notes resulting from the happy - surprise arrival here of some of the leading lights of CROSBYANA in the U.K.

An overnight telegram delivered first post on August I2 conveyed the news that Dot and Alf Farrow would be calling for a visit to North Shields on their way home to Hull from a holiday in Scotland. Alf had mentioned in a previous phone call they would endeavour to pop in to see us and Alma and I were delighted that the visit would coincide with my day off work.

Mr and Mrs 'A' arrived about I pm and after some tea etc Alf and I retired to the CROSBY ROOM upstairs for a sessional natter, leaving the 'girls' for a spot of wife to wife chin-wag - about two hours passed and we were called downstairs for tea, in the middle of which a surprise guest, namely ROY CHAPPELL dropped in - it appeared Roy was in Cabaret in Sunderland (about I5 miles away)and as he knew Wednesday was my day off decided to drive through to North Shields - He could'nt have picked a better day and I was delighted that Alf should get to meet Roy in this way.

I could'nt help feeling just a little bit proud of the happy bond that exsists among Crosbyites - we live in a very spread out way really, but someone always seems to be near you - these friendly visits really are the very escence of the club. Long may they continue.

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CLUB MEETING DISC PROJECT SHELVED.

Due to cirmumstances beyond my control we have decided to cancell the proposed pressing of the original Personal Message from Bing to the British Crosby Society in I957 - I'd be grateful if those members on the order list will write to me as early as possible indicating which of the following alternative courses of action they would prefer.

(I) Full refund
(2) Cash to be reserved against future subscription
(3) Immediate delivery of 7"LP 33⅓ Bing/Dean/Andy TV excerpts Master No 363/4

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HAVE YOU SENT IN A RECORD REQUEST FOR A BING DISC RECENTLY - SEND ONE IN TODAY, AND TOMORROW, AND THE NEXT DAY, THEN SIT BACK AND WAIT FOR RESULTS

LIKE A FEW TIPS? - HOW ABOUT SOME REAL BEAUTIES FROM THE LONGINES SET -

"SAY IT IS'NT SO" "FRIENDLY PERSUASION" or "SAY SI SI"

Or what about some of the tracks from Bing's excellent Country and Western album on Capitol and WRC - tracks like ;-

"THE WABASH CANNONBALL" "HELLO WALLS""HEARTACHES BY THE NUMBER" etc

Hows about us all getting a "touch of the Les Gaylor's" giving Crosbyana in a general a real shot in the arm???????????

Reg ....
: the life-saver

Truth to tell, we'd have been in a pickle this issue without the multi-directional talents of our "Ace" writer reg bristo - in days long gone we used to be able to boast almost comparable marathons from our other "Ace" leslie gaylor, but since Les ceased his marathons, whilst happily continueing to pursue his life-long Bing boosting on a more 'solo' note, we'd have been lost without the pennings of our S.W's master of variety.

The position became more acute in this issue when the disastrous news arrived from Australia that AUSTRALIAN NEWSLETTER would'nt be forthcoming due to a severe bout of Asian Flu - Because of this I decided the only course to take would be to include Reg's articles in the main magazine section - My apologies to Reg for not "Spotlighting" as I like to do via the seperate publication but I hope with John Bassett's assistance to make up for the unfortunate curtailments so obvious in this issue - Together with John and Reg and the double does of AUSTRALIAN NEWSLETTER promised by the boys 'Down Under' we'll give you a bumber edition of "BING" magazine in November

(OOOO)

ON THE STREET WHERE YOU LIVE

We extend a cordial welcome to the newest of our Stateside members, EARL ROSS of Savannah, Goergia - liked your letter Earl and especially the name of the street where you live -
"CROSBY STREET"

BING FEATURED IN "WOMAN" July 18th 1970

I/- from IPC Magazines, 189 High Holborn, London WCI

in an excellent series entitled FILM FAVOURITES, page 14 and 15 covered briefly Bing along with HUMPHREY BOGART, GARY COOPER as three of INGRID BERGMAN'S co-stars - excellent photos especially the full length one of Bing in his role as the priest in THE BELLS OF ST' MARY'S - it's possible to obtain a back number if you write to IPC and we suggest you enclose a little extra to cover postage - when writing, mention you're a Crosby fan and would like to see more of Bing featured in their publications.

OOOOOOOOOOOOOOO
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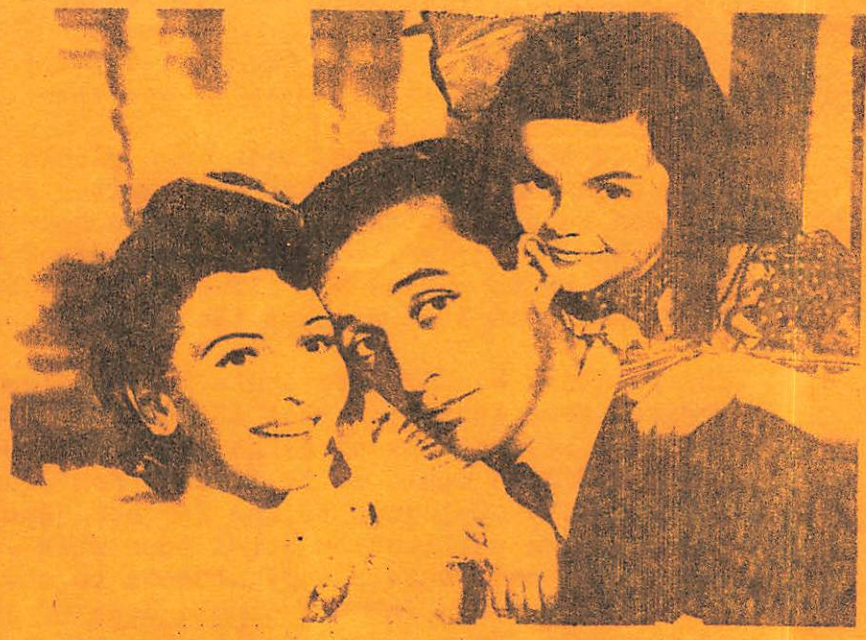
And so we bring this issue to a close, hope you've enjoyed the news and the views and we look forward to seeing you again in the November bumber issue which incidentally will take the club up to it's 20th Anniversary which will be covered with special coverage in the Febuary 1971 issue

Till Febuary - be good -

..... and happy,

all best wishes to you and yours - Frank.



BIRTH OF THE BLUES